

Is this a boom  
or a blip?



Liz Taylor ate my  
pet porcupine!

25 years of the National Enquirer, Section Two

Meet the stroppy  
girls of pop

Second World War

# THE INDEPENDENT

3,019

FRIDAY 21 JUNE 1996

40p (UK 45p)

## Yeltsin casts out his Rasputin

### Purge in the Kremlin

By Phil Reeves

Boris Yeltsin was yesterday compelled by circumstances to make a choice that he should have made months ago. He finally opted to support the democrats in his entourage after a power struggle that briefly threatened to disrupt Russia's presidential elections. He finally satisfied three of his main rivals whose presence in the heart of the Kremlin had raised serious doubts about his commitment to democracy.

The events in Moscow over the last turbulent 24 hours were almost certainly not a *soup d'eau*, although the Russian Prosecutor-General's office has launched an inquiry into allegations by leading liberals that a plan was hatched as an attempt to stop the election run-off from going ahead.

What seems to have occurred was a showdown be-

The arrival of General Lebed, like some sort of avenging Robocop, is critical to yesterday's events.

But his sudden rise has disturbed the delicate, fetid, biological balance within the Kremlin

tween the democrats who have played a leading role in devising Mr Yeltsin's grandiose election campaign, but feared that they would be dumped once he has won a second term, and a group of the President's closest associates, hawkish security men who also felt their grip on power weakening.

The democrats won. Out went General Alexander Korzhakov, a Rasputin figure in the Kremlin - head of the 20,000-strong presidential guard and one of Mr Yeltsin's closest friends, who last month called for the elections to be postponed.

Out went General Mikhail Barsukov, head of the Federal Security Service, who led the criminal bombing of Pervomaisk in Dagestan last January. And out went Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister, regarded by both men as a friend and mentor.

The event that precipitated their sacking, less than a fortnight before the election runoff, seems trivial in comparison with the outcome, which served the world with another frightening reminder of the fragility of democracy in Russia.

On Wednesday afternoon, news staff on the President's campaign team - Sergei

Lisovsky, a show-business magnate, and Arkady Yevstafyev, a businessman - were arrested as they left the White House, the government's headquarters.

They were held by members of Mr Korzhakov's presidential guard and armed police. According to General Barsukov, they were carrying a large sum - allegedly \$500,000 - in hard currency; the authorities were merely being inquisitive, he said, and later released them without charge.

A shaken Mr Yevstafyev, who was interrogated for 11 hours, supplied a different account: "They did not explain the reasons, but asked me about the election. I heard one of them say the President would win the election in any case, but it would be thanks to 'the patriots', rather than to people who attached themselves to him."

News of their arrest was broadcast on a late-night unscheduled bulletin by NTV - once an independent national television channel, now a mouthpiece in the democratic camp's battle against a return of the Communists, whose leader Grennady Zyuganov came a close second in last Sunday's first round.

The liberal Anatoly Chubais, Mr Yeltsin's erstwhile privatisations minister and head of his election campaign, announced that a planned coup had been brewing; the arrests would, he said, have been followed by other moves against the President's election staff. It was the end of a long struggle between a group in the Yeltsin administration who were working for victory by democratic elections, and another which proposed the use of force as a solution.

Crucially, he had the support of General Alexander Lebed, Mr Yeltsin's latest recruit. He would "cruelly crush" any uprising, the general warned.

The arrival in the Kremlin of this gravel-voiced retired soldier, like some sort of avenging Robocop, is critical to yesterday's events. His ascension to power was orchestrated by the President's advisers, who covertly supported his election campaign in which he attracted 11 million votes. Mr Yeltsin then sought to win over his votes for the run-off by making him secretary of the Security Council and national security adviser.

But his sudden rise, coupled with his vow to wipe out corruption, has disturbed the delicate, fetid, biological balance within the Kremlin.

On Tuesday he got rid of the Defence Minister, General Pavel Grachev, and then claimed to have pre-empted a coup plot, hatched by a handful of generals. And yesterday he helped to secure the departure of three other potential threats to his supremacy. In three days, he has become the



Driven out: Alexander Korzhakov, head of the presidential guard, stands alongside Boris Yeltsin's ZB henchmen. Said to be a Rasputin-like figure, he is now one of three victims of a Kremlin power struggle. Photograph: Yuri Kogorev/FotoLands

second most powerful man in the country.

The key question now is whether the episode harms Mr Yeltsin, as he prepares for the 3 July run-off, or helps him. His campaign message is that he represents stability and normality. Such upheavals create the opposite impression.

Mr Zyuganov, who has recently been portraying himself as a moderate in favour of an

all-encompassing coalition government, was quick to pounce on this theme. The Popular Patriotic Front declares the Fatherland is in danger, he said in a statement. "Internal squabbling around the weakening and loosening strings of government can lead to fierce civil strife and tragic consequences."

But he also accused a

President of conducting a "well-planned game" in which

he was "feverishly changing his team to try to stay in power", and "throwing overboard people who seemed closest and most devoted to him".

Although yesterday's turmoil seems too precarious to have been part of a pre-planned strategy, it is true that the sight of notorious hawks being flushed out of their heavily feathered nest will delight many Russians; it will probably help

the President win over the vote for General Lebed who, although a nationalist, has so far proved to be champion of the liberal cause.

It will also enhance the image that Mr Yeltsin has gone to great lengths to cultivate, that of the father of the nation who is willing to punish even his favourite children, if they start getting out of control.

Party of war, page 9

### Why left sounds right to a babe in arms



'Twas ever thus: A Robert Campin study, circa 1430

child, who has no understanding of language, but will recognise and respond to the tone and melody of its mother's voice. Hence, the observation that 83 per cent of right-handed and

left-handed mothers opt for cradling on the left.

The explanation lies in the fact that each side of the brain handles different aspects of speech. The left side, which is fed information predominantly by the right ear, processes the structure of language, the word content, and the grammar and syntax of speech.

The right side of the brain, which is responsible for interpreting tone and melody, and the emotional quality of sound - of most value to a baby in its early life - is supplied with information mainly by the left ear.

Dr Harry Sieracki, an expert in neo-natal medicine at the Hammersmith Hospital, London, and Professor John Wray from the Department of Clinical Communications at City University, London, pro-

pose that "left cradling" frees a baby's left ear and so facilitates the flow of sound - its mother's voice - to the right side of the brain for processing and interpretation.

Writing in tomorrow's issue of the *Lancet*, the doctors say that the right hemisphere of the brain is the more mature side at this stage of the baby's development, and it makes sense for a mother to direct her voice to her baby's left ear.

Right-cradlers appear to have more psychological problems before pregnancy and are more anxious about the delivery and the health of their child than left cradlers, they say.

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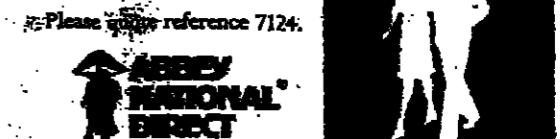
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QURKLY  
Re-thinking inevitable  
Re-thinking of health care is inevitable and the public must become involved in the debate on how to do it, health care specialists said yesterday. Page 7

Anti-tank whaling  
Sheets of people have been using anti-tank weapons and Kalashnikovs to kill whales. Right: Rhinos have admitted. Page 3

CONTENTS  
Sports 1  
Entertainment 21-25  
Comment 27  
Crossword 29  
Last Service 30  
Leisure & Leisure 30  
Obituaries 30  
Books 31-32  
Sport 32-33  
Matters 33  
Classified 34-35  
Crossword 36  
John Atkinson 36  
Exhibition 36-37  
On the Web 38-39  
Pop Music 40-42  
TV & Radio 42-43  
Weather 43

would not sound the same - or have the desired, soothing effect - if a woman cradled her baby on the right side of her body. Hence, the observation that 83 per cent of right-handed and

مكتبة من الأصل

## news

# Going on the attack without a leg to stand on

Now we all know what Tony Blair did when he went to Germany this week, because John Major told us in Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday. "The right honourable gentleman carries favour with his hosts," declared the PM, "by rolling over on his back with his legs in the air!"

Had this been said without the benefit of parliamentary privilege, the Labour leader might well have been spending the afternoon instructing his solicitors. He will recall how his late colleague, Allan Roberts, was once discovered in a dog kennel in a Berlin nightclub being whipped by a muscular Teuton. Mr Blair, the profiles all suggest, is a man of a different



DAVID AARONOVITCH

bent so what was the Prime Minister suggesting?

Actually, he was responding to a question from leading Eurosceptic, Iain Duncan-Smith, about Mr Blair's presence at a conference of industrialists on the banks of the Rhine. Mr Duncan-Smith wished to suggest that Tony had been talking

all capitalistic to the burghers of Bonn, whilst rubbishing all Britain's free-market achievements at home. But the dapper member for Chingford felt obliged to couch his query in terms of the Prime Minister's use of his leisure time.

On Tuesday Mr Major angrily denied the calumnious suggestion that he might have been watching *Panorama*. Yesterday he was invited to "remember the old cowboy movies he must have watched in his youth in which they used to say 'Paleface speak with forked tongue!'"

Mr Major smiled in recognition. Perhaps, last Monday evening, with a typical BBC exposé of failures over BSE occupying a whole channel, the PM

had indeed slipped a cassette of *Rio Bravo* into the No 10 video.

And who could blame him? He must be so fed up with the BSE débâcle. Ridiculed yesterday by both Mr Blair and Padphy Ashdown over his imminent declaration of Victory over Europe at the Florence summit this weekend, Mr Major had been reduced to describing his rivals as "idiot", as possessing a "breathtaking capacity to understand nothing" and being "wrong in every aspect". But behind him there was an ominous lack of enthusiasm. Teresa Gorman was not wearing her medals and the bunting was not being put out for VESE Day.

That meant making do with Nigel Evans (Ribble Valley), who as the first Tory to put a question got to stand in metaphorical Creep's Corner, asking the usual stuff about contrasting the Government's exceptional success with what would happen were the electorate stupid enough to place their trust in "the party opposite".

Mr Evans has a thin, slightly rodentine face, a long body and a keen nose for the main chance. He also seems rather ill-at-ease in his clothes, which hang off him when (as happens all too often) he rises to speak. In short, he looks like a ferret in a suit. The particular rabbit-hole that the whips had sent him down was the European one. His task was to deliver the line that while the Tories fought for Britain's inter-

est in Europe, Mr Blair fights for "Europe's interests in Britain". He delivered it, twitched his whiskers and sat down.

So there we are. Now we know how very differently the two leaders behave when abroad. Or do we? When another Tory wished him good luck in Italy tomorrow, the Prime Minister declared boldly that "weekends in Florence are always most enjoyable!" "Woooooah!" roared the Opposition benches. "Yes," said Mr Major hurriedly - lest he be misunderstood. "It is a lovely place." So no lying on his back with legs in the air for him. Oh no. Just sightseeing and the winning of incredible victories over the continental foe. Pity.

## Redwood calls for pre-poll tax cuts

COLIN BROWN

John Redwood will today call for £6bn in tax cuts - equivalent to 3p in the pound off the basic rate of income tax - to boost the Tories' chances with a pre-election Budget by Kenneth Clarke.

Mr Redwood believes the cuts should be targeted at reversing the introduction of VAT on fuel, and raising tax allowances to take more low paid out of tax altogether.

"If the current public spending plans remain, there cannot be any tax cuts," Mr Redwood said on Channel Four television.

The call by the former Cabinet minister, who challenged John Major for the leadership of the Conservative Party a year ago, will be reinforced by leaders of the right-wing 92 Group of Tory MPs who are planning to meet the Chancellor next week.

The pressure for substantial tax cuts will be increased by a Commons written answer showing the tax burden has gone up under the Tories. William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, confirmed the Budget estimate that total taxes and national insurance contributions had risen as a percentage of gross domestic product from 35.5 per cent in 1979-80 to 36 per cent in 1995-96.

The Tory right-wing intends to warn Mr Clarke that unless he is prepared to find the room for substantial tax cuts, the Tories' election chances will be dashed.

Tax cuts will mean substantial reductions in public expenditure, which could also prove unpopular. Mr Clarke has said he would not "slash and burn" to achieve tax cuts, and he has emphasised he is determined to follow a "sensible approach".



Final touch: A racegoer checking her face for Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot in Berkshire yesterday Reports, page 27

Photograph: Herbie Knott

## Major denies rout on beef

COLIN BROWN and STEVE GOODWIN

John Major last night denied he had suffered a "rout" in the row with the European Union over the ban on beef exports.

The timescale is in our hands. To say to our partners they must fix some arbitrary date without knowing whether the objective criteria is met is plainly absurd. That is what we said at the outset, and I wish people would stop misrepresenting it," Mr Major said.

Mr Blair said that for ministers to call the deal a triumph

was "an utter travesty of the truth". There was no guarantee the ban would be lifted and Britain would be spending billions on compensation for years.

Britain's European partners, meeting in Florence today, have to British demands for an early lifting of the beef-export ban to third countries, in a final concession that could ensure a framework to end the crisis.

The call for the ban on exports to non-EU countries to be lifted speedily has been central to the Government's own pro-

posals for a framework deal. But it was rejected on Wednesday in the European Commission's draft framework.

As things stood last night, there was no prospect for Britain to export the beef now being sold to British households in third countries - a vital part of Mr Major's demands.

However, signalling a possible trade-off at Florence, Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, yesterday voiced "sympathy" with Britain's position on third-country exports. Mr Dini envisaged a possible compromise formula under which Britain might export to non-EU countries on a "case-by-case basis". Given that Italy holds the EU presidency, the Foreign Minister's remarks are significant.

"I look with sympathy on the question of third-country exports," he said. "It may be that the problem could be solved on

a case-by-case basis." Mr Dini said "health guarantees" would have to be ensured. But his remarks clearly suggested that the guarantees would not be as stringent as the demands for the lifting of the blockade on beef destined for the EU. "The export of the meat should happen on the same conditions that the meat is sold in the UK," he said.

**Florence** — Mr Major looks set to lift Britain's veto over the setting up of a European-wide police network, as part of a deal to settle the beef crisis at the Florence summit this weekend, writes Sarah Helm.

Agreement on the European convention has been an urgent priority for Britain's European partners, particularly Germany, for more than a year. But Britain has always opposed parts of the convention, and blocked a possible compromise three weeks ago as part of its disruption campaign.

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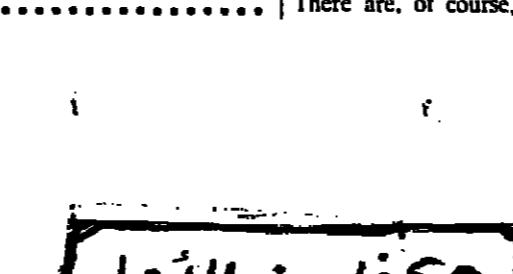
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## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The man's role on the World Congress of International Trade in London, on Monday, was to be chairman of a major oil and gas conference. John Peter was due to speak at the opening ceremony of the conference, but was taken ill and had to leave. The conference, which had been postponed from April, was due to open on Tuesday.

Mr Peter, chairman of the London-based oil and gas conference, said he had to leave because of a "sudden illness".

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A man was sentenced to four years in prison in connection with the killing of a two-year-old boy. The boy, aged Arthur Jackson, died at a residential children's home in San Francisco after being released from a California prison.

The 60-year-old Scot was driven to the police station in west London to be interviewed about the killing of former Grenadier guard Anthony Fletcher in 1987. Mr Fletcher, 33, was shot dead when he chased an armed bank robber in Chelsea. He was awarded posthumous George Cross for his bravery.

The first national strike, known as the "Big 5", began today as part of a campaign to encourage working people to demand better pay and better conditions by working longer hours. The organisers are demanding a 40-hour week, a 28-day annual holiday, child care, and PEP Healthcare, a private medical company, which have combined to campaign against long working hours.

Today was chosen because it is Midsummer's Day, with the longest daylight hours of the year, which the organisers feel is symbolic. Over the past decade, the number of people working excessively long in Britain has increased dramatically. In the United Kingdom alone, 1.5 million workers now work more than 50 hours a week, and nearly 200,000 work more than 60 hours a week. The main research was carried out (see box, page 4).

Damaged hair has been awarded to a housewife who was given a hospital abortion without her consent. Lawyers acting for Amanda Blewitt reached an out-of-court settlement with North Nottingham Health Authority which runs the troubled King's Mill Hospital in Sutton-in-Ashfield, which is being sued by her ex-husband.

Miss Blewitt, 25, from Chadderton, Derbyshire, was admitted to the hospital for a routine womb operation in January 1992. But she claimed doctors failed to tell her of the result of a pregnancy test before going ahead with the operation. Two days later, she discovered she had been pregnant and the foetus had been destroyed. The health authority admitted liability. Neither side revealed the exact amount of damages, although the figure was thought to be around £10,000.

Police think that Robert Black was yesterday at the centre of police investigations into the case of missing Devon teenager Gemma Lee and the murder of nine-year-old Ulster girl Jennifer Carey. Black, a 19-year-old former van driver who is serving 18 life sentences, was interviewed by officers investigating the unsolved cases.

Officers from three forces yesterday interviewed Black after he was taken from Wakefield jail, West Yorkshire, to the town's police station. Gemma Lee, 12, vanished while doing a newspaper round in Devon in 1978. Her body has never been found and she is still listed as a missing person. Nine-year-old Jennifer Carey was found drowned in a mill pond off the Huddersfield to Dronmore dual carriageway in Ulster in August, 1981.

Struggling charities and voluntary groups on shoe-string budgets have been given a better chance of landing grants from the National Lottery. A pilot scheme was launched to award them small grants of between £500 and £5,000 for the first time.

The National Lottery Charities Board is to carry out a three-month trial of the system in Wales. If successful, the scheme will be extended to the rest of Britain. Only groups with annual incomes of less than £10,000 will be eligible, and, unlike larger-scale bids for lottery funds, the small grants will have no deadlines and application forms will be shorter. The board said £500,000 would be available in Wales during the pilot scheme.

The first documented case of the HIV virus being transmitted by a human bite is reported today in the Lancet. It involved a Slovenian man who was accidentally bitten by a neighbour who had AIDS. The man went to help the AIDS patient, who was having a fit, and in order to help him breathe, stuck his fingers in his neighbour's mouth.

Although not bitten badly, his fingernail was split and the man became concerned when he saw blood on the AIDS patient's lips. Doctors say there is little doubt that HIV was transmitted by the bite. They say that it is very rare for people to get infection this way because usually there are very few HIV cells in saliva. However, the AIDS patient was very ill - he died shortly after - and there was probably a lot of virus in his body fluids. *Liz Hunt*

New regulations threaten the future of a petrol station which has served a village for more than 70 years, and stands as a testament to bygone days of motoring history, with its original 1930s pumps.

Despite accident-free driving since 1923, garage owner Hedley Wilding, has been told by Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade that it will not renew his petrol licence as the pumps are too close to the road. Around 1,000 villagers in Timmestow, Herefordshire, have signed a petition in protest.

### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Letters, page 17

# Vanishing tribes v. vanishing whales

Siberian hunters blast whales with anti-tank guns and Kalashnikovs. They have our blessing because they are 'aboriginals'. Should it be allowed? asks Nicholas Schoon

Siberian tribespeople have been using anti-tank weapons and Kalashnikov rifles to kill whales, Russia admitted this week.

Elsewhere in the Arctic, the Inuit people of Greenland use conventional fishing boats armed with state-of-the-art explosive harpoons. The fin and whalemeat they catch can be found on sale in a supermarket in the capital, Nuuk.

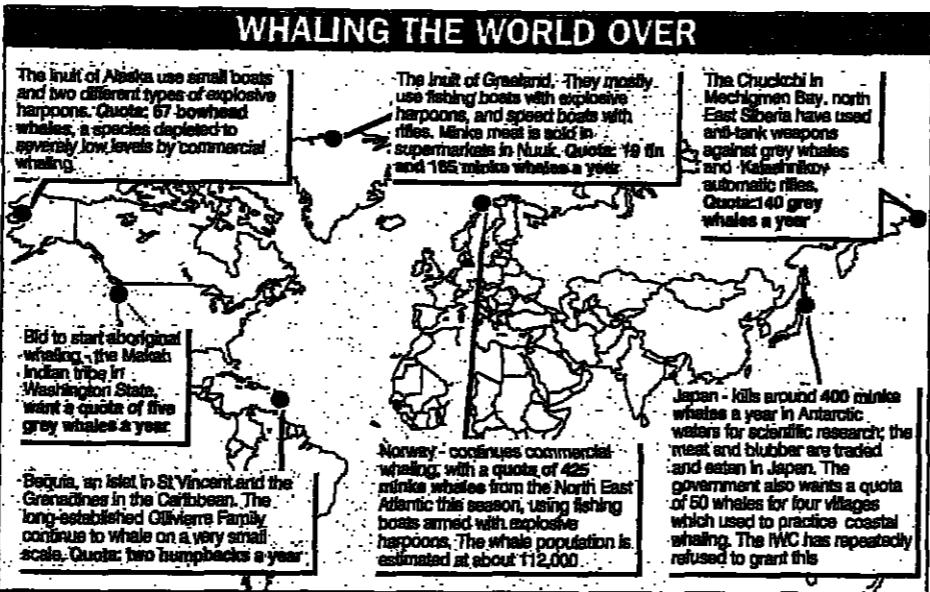
The reason these and other peoples of the far north are able to continue a slaughter the rest of the world deplores is because it is deemed to be an essential part of ancient tribal culture. They are exempt from the International Whaling Commission's nine-year moratorium on commercial whaling.

But at next week's annual IWC meeting in Aberdeen this "aboriginal" or "subsistence" whaling - which kills hundreds of the mammals each year - will be the subject of heated debate.

What is really bringing matters to a head is the urgent wish of an American Indian tribe - the Makah of Washington state - to go back to whaling after ceasing 70 years ago. The United States government, a fierce opponent of commercial whaling, is applying to the commission for a quota for five grey whales a year for the Makah.

Only the tribal elders still have childhood memories of whaling, and the Makah will have to re-learn their lost skills. They are looking for help to the Inuit in Alaska, who never stopped whaling. Like the Inuit they may well use explosive harpoons. The tribe is invoking the 1855 treaty it signed with the US government which gave it "the right of taking fish and of whaling or sealing at usual and accustomed grounds."

Several Makah are coming to Aberdeen to lobby IWC delegations from the 30 nations attending. Some US animal rights organisations are strongly opposed to granting them a quota.



A sub-committee of the IWC will consider the request and review all aboriginal whaling to recommend whether to allow it to continue before making a report to the full commission next week. The US delegation expects resistance from several countries and pressure groups.

The commission's scientific committee has been meeting this week, and its members were startled by the Russian data on last year's aboriginal whaling. Five remote villages in the most north-easterly corner

of Siberia caught only 85 of their quota of 140 whales. But on average 500 bullets were shot at each from rapid-fire rifles, and two were shot with anti-tank rounds.

"That was certainly a surprise for us," said Dr Ray Gambell, the IWC's secretary. The British government said it had grave concerns and would be seeking further details.

Russia used to provide the impoverished Chukchi tribespeople with a whale-catching boat, but that ended after the collapse of Communism. They have had to find other ways of trying to catch their quota.

Outside the Arctic, there is only one legalised aboriginal whaler - Athina Olivierre on the Caribbean island of Bequia. Like generations of his family before him, Mr Olivierre, who is in his 70s, continues to hunt humpback whales from a small boat using a non-explosive harpoon. His quota is just two a year, but this year he has only one - and it got away.



Arctic harvest: The North American Inuits (above) and the Siberian Chukchi people continue an ancient tradition. Above left: Chukchi butchering a grey whale on the beach

Norway and Japan, which have found ways of legally defying the moratorium and catching hundreds of unendangered minke whales each year, increasingly resent the special, protected status of aboriginal whaling. They argue it is getting harder and harder to distinguish it from the kind of whaling they want to do.

But the tribespeople and their supporters say it needs its special status. Whaling dominates their threatened and often damaged cultures, strengthens social bonds and remains a vital food source.

Japan has repeatedly asked for a quota of 50 minke for four villages with a tradition of coastal whaling, but the IWC has always rejected the request.

Norway says its whaling - which is coastal, and done part-time by fishermen, only in summer - is almost identical to what the Inuit in Greenland are allowed to do. They also insist it poses no threat to its healthy whale populations.

Greenpeace does not condemn aboriginal whaling, but Georg Blichfeldt of the High North Alliance, representing whalers, sealers and fishermen across the Arctic, said the concept was outdated. "The term is totally irrelevant - it's inverted racism. Everyone should have the right to whale so long as it's properly controlled and sustainable. You don't need to be a tribe with a special culture and special dances."

## Successful females herald dawn of a fairer future

GLENDA COOPER

The future's bright. The future's female. As the next millennium dawns we are looking at the feminisation of society. Street lighting in dodgy alleys, decent pub lunches instead of a curled-up sandwich, convenient car parks and shops which open late all show that the growing economic power of women is ushering in an era dominated by males and feminine values.

Women's increased employment combined with rising divorce rates and delayed marriage mean that more income is ending up in their hands. And as they increasingly move into traditionally male-dominated pursuits such as travelling on business, driving cars and visiting pubs, their stamp on society is becoming more marked.

In the world of work female employment has risen by one-

fifth since the early 1970s, while male employment has fallen by the same amount. The trend is set to continue with 80 per cent of jobs created by 2000 going to women. And many of the skills currently in demand by employers - flexibility, efficiency, teamworking - are favouring women, who have traditionally worked part-time or in the service industry.

The result is that areas such as the hospitality sector - which encompasses the sale of food, drink, accommodation and leisure and accounts for 1 in 10 jobs - is having to rethink in order to cater to this new market.

Professor Bob Tyrrell, of the Henley Centre strategy and marketing consultancy which carried out a study for the Joint Hospitality Industry Congress, said: "There's a difference in priorities between women and men that has to be recognised. We've seen it happen in pub foods

where the standards have gone up because more families are visiting pubs... instead of just dads who would have been happy with a stale tomato roll. All the appearance of healthy foods on the menus undoubtedly primarily women-driven."

He added: "With women working there is a general increase on the pressures of time - whereas there is less pressure on money. Women are looking for value for time and value for money." This will encourage consumers to demand immediate services and shops that can offer out-of-hours service.

Growing income polarisation and fear of crime have also created a demand for safe areas. "Safe" environments, such as Center Parcs, and tagging of children in play areas have already proved popular. "There is a particular need for security which is beginning to be recognised by some operators,"

Professor Tyrrell said. "If you want women to patronise your outlets you have to have car parking. And you have to have a well-lit car park with no dark alleyways."

The other huge shift which is forcing a radical shake-up of views in the hospitality industry is an ageing population which needs to be catered for. While society and its institutions are still geared to the young, only 33 per cent of the population is aged under 25 and there is a rapid decrease in the 25 to 34-year-old population.

"We forecast radical changes in how we live work and use our leisure time," said Michael Hirst, chairman of the Joint Hospitality Industry Congress. "Consumers will become vastly more demanding as we evolve towards a more feminine and aged society where huge emphasis will be laid on the efficient use of time."

## Why The Planet came to earth

REBECCA FOWLER

It was the briefest of orbits in the heady world of newspapers. *The Planet on Sunday*, launched by a millionaire environmentalist and travel entrepreneur, folded after only one edition this week, after its owner described it as "despicable".

The *Planet* was dubbed the "newspaper of the future" and for Clifford Hards, 65, who made his fortune selling cheap package holidays to Eastern Europe, it was to be a national platform for his beloved environmental issues. So how did the *Planet* and Mr Hards' £500,000 dream of a green newspaper go up in smoke?

In the best possible tradition of the media, it was over the content and "editorial differences" with his editor, Austin Mitchelson. In the first and only edition, Mr Hards who has stood unsuccessfully as an independent candidate for Parliament, set out his green agenda, calling for a reduction in international trade to reduce pollution, and suggesting that



Editor Austin Mitchelson (right) and Drew Robertson, deputy Britain was better outside the EU. But when he opened the paper, which sold 115,000 copies, he found little else to please him than the Dan Dare comic strip. The alarmist tone of some stories and the celebrity articles, television and sports coverage, were not to his taste.

He said: "I feel it is better to withdraw than produce a publication that does not match the ideals of the environmental movement. I do however, appreciate how hard the staff have worked."

Among the more striking stories in *Planet* was the tale of

Leading article page 17

Police 'use untrained drivers' on emergency patrols

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Untrained police officers and volunteers are being used to drive patrol cars in high-speed emergency calls, a Home Office-funded study has discovered.

The officers and Specials - unpaid civilians - are usually allowed to drive Ford cars after a one-hour test, based on the current Department of Transport examination. Under guidelines, low-grade drivers are only supposed to use police vehicles for non-urgent inquiries, such as returning lost property, or following up crimes. But a survey of all 43 police forces in England and Wales discovered that most of them use unqualified drivers for emergency work, such as responding to accidents, riots and burglaries. This often involves high-speed driving, which they have not been trained to do.

News that untrained officers are frequently used comes as the Police Complaints Authority has instigated a national inquiry into a spate of fatal and serious accidents involving police vehicles. So far this year eight people have died in such incidents.

The increasing use of unqualified drivers is believed to be due to the high cost of training advanced motorists and the increasing demands on the police to answer calls quickly. About three-quarters of forces are understood to use the one-hour test system.

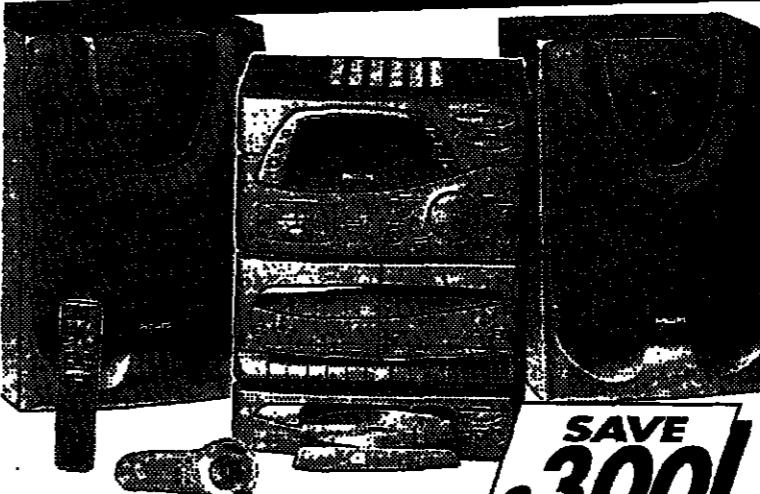
The use of untrained officers was highlighted as an "area of concern" in the 11-month study, *Examination for the Future*, which is part of the Police Research Group. The authors - two driving instructors in Thames Valley police - also identified concerns over variations in standards leading them to call for a full review of driver training and grading.

Sgt Brian Smith, co-author of the report, yesterday said: "The vast majority of officers who do the basic test are no better drivers than the average person in the street, except they are expected to answer emergencies in a hurry."

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دعاية الذهاب

# Aitken cleared by inquiry into export of arms

CHRIS BLACKHURST  
Westminster Correspondent

Jonathan Aitken, the former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was cleared yesterday of being involved in illegal arms exports. A triumphant Mr Aitken said the verdict, from a powerful Commons' Select Committee, was a step on the way towards clearing his name and resurrecting his ministerial career.

"I feel I have been cleared, exonerated and vindicated by this committee and its judgment," said Mr Aitken, who resigned from the Cabinet last summer amid a welter of allegations about his business dealings.

The Trade and Industry Committee confirmed articles in the *Independent* in April last year that Mr Aitken was a director of BMARC, an arms company which supplied guns to Iran in breach of a Government embargo. "Some GAM-BO1 20mm KAA cannon made from components manufactured by BMARC found their way to Iran," concluded the report.

Following the *Independent*'s disclosures, Gerald James, BMARC's former chairman, was widely quoted as saying directors knew the naval cannons were heading for Iran and claimed that Mr Aitken was present at a board meeting when details of the contract to supply the guns – codenamed Project Lisi – was tabled for discussion. "We find that Mr James's allegations are, in gen-



Jonathan Aitken: Hoping to resurrect ministerial career

eral, incredible," the committee said. "On the matters we have examined in detail, Mr James has proved to be a highly unreliable witness."

The report by MPs went on: "We have found no reason to believe that Mr Aitken was aware of the alleged suspicious over Project Lisi nor any reason why he should have been suspicious himself."

The report was sharply critical of the way BMARC was repeatedly granted export licences by the Government to supply arms to Singapore, despite intelligence warnings suggesting the real destination was Iran.

MPs said the affair highlighted "major weaknesses" in the licensing procedures and called on the Government to appoint a senior civil servant to oversee the whole system. They set up their inquiry after being invited to do so in June last year.

by Michael Heseltine, the then President of the Board of Trade. In a dramatic statement to the Commons, Mr Heseltine confirmed the *Independent* revelation and asked the committee to investigate.

Despite having his imprimatur, the inquiry ran into difficulty. Martin O'Neill, the committee chairman, said yesterday that information had been requested from the Ministry of Defence, and refused. Instead, they had to rely on material supplied by Jane's, the defence journal. MPs also complained they were denied access to the actual intelligence reports, but were only given summaries by officials, and they called on the Government to be more open with future select committee inquiries.

Mr O'Neill denied that the report had been compromised because the committee did not have access to the raw intelligence reports – although he accepted the report would have had greater force if they had seen the material. "I don't think it is shot through with holes. I don't think it undermines the credibility of the report that we didn't have access to all the material," he said.

At the same press conference, another committee member, Ken Purchase, demurred from the outright attack on Mr James. Mr Purchase went on to maintain that Mr Aitken had brought the allegations on himself, saying he had taken his "eye off the ball" by becoming a director of the company.

Mr Aitken is pursuing libel actions against the *Guardian* newspaper and Granada television's *World In Action* over a number of allegations about his business dealings. Earlier this week, he succeeded in getting the trial set for October 1997 at the earliest. Defence lawyers accused him of trying to prevent the case being heard before the general election.

**THE INDEPENDENT**

**Aitken firm broke arms rules**  
Minister was director of company that broke arms embargo with sale to Iran

Link: How the *Independent* revealed Mr Aitken's directorship

## Schools forced to give low priority to books

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

Primary schools' spending on books is less than a third of what they need to cover the bare essentials, an inquiry headed by a former chief inspector of schools said yesterday.

Research commissioned by the Book Trust, a charity which promotes reading, revealed that while secondary schools were slightly better off they still spent less than half what they needed.

A separate report from the Educational Publishers Council has revealed that one primary school in five had less than £5 per year to spend on books for each pupil.

A committee of inquiry headed by Professor Eric Bolton, who was chief inspector from

1983 to 1991, concluded that primary schools needed to spend £45 and secondary schools £56 per pupil per year. In fact, primary schools spent just £14.21 and £27.54, it said.

The study of a representative sample of 12 primary schools and 15 secondary schools throughout England showed a huge variation in the amount being spent. An independent secondary school spent £9.11 per year while a local authority school had just £21.30 and a grant-maintained school had £50.

It says school underfunding is becoming more serious by the year, forcing headteachers and governors into giving a low priority to spending on books.

"Schools must now find money for computers as well as for books, and the introduction of the national curriculum has increased the need for new resources. Subjects such as religious education and art must now be taught using text books."

The cost of books accounts for just 2 per cent of all school spending, the report says, and the government should tackle the issue by allowing schools to bid for book grants.

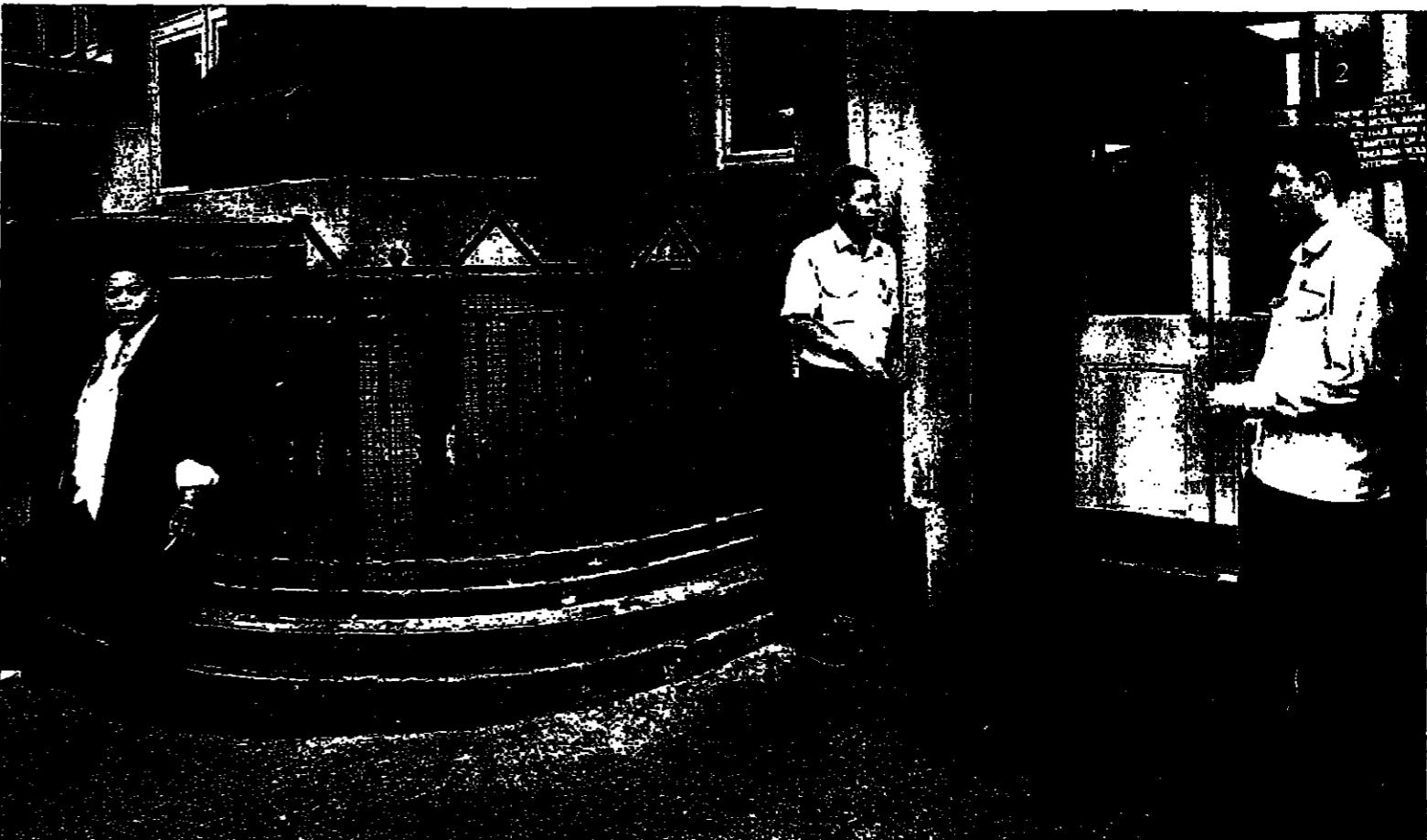
Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said his union had been warning since the early 1990s that spending on books was too low.

"The Government is aware of this inadequacy which is why it constantly seeks to divert parents' attention by unjustly criticising teachers," he said.

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Rest from labour: Post Office workers taking a break yesterday outside the Mount Pleasant depot in central London

Photograph: Jane Baker

## So who will miss the mail today?

The Post Office fears today's strike will lead customers to question their need for its services, writes Barrie Clements

In the Nineties era of the fax and ever-spreading computer communications world we really miss the Royal Mail? If customers use other ways of communicating with each other today, why bother with the postal service in future?

Royal Mail is worried about competition from electronic mail between companies' computers on the Internet and Electronic Data Interchange.

Today's first national post strike in a decade highlights the fact that more people are writing letters than 10 years ago, and so far no one has been able to challenge Royal Mail's ability to deliver to 25 million addresses all over Britain. But the Post Office is concerned that to fit with 24-hour strike over a new package of pay and conditions may prompt customers to question the need for its services.

Over the past 10 years the number of letters carried by Royal Mail has increased by half, to around 70 million a day at a time of strong competition from private carriers and burgeoning new technology. Personal letters have maintained

their 10 per cent share of the total; the rest is business usage.

Nevertheless, the Post Office's share of the £30bn-a-year communications industry fell from 20 per cent to 16 per cent over the same period.

Since 1984 the number of fax machines has increased by 1,500 per cent. British Telecom yesterday began an advertising campaign asking potential customers to "consider the fax".

The last national postal strike a decade ago prompted a boom

in the sales of the machines.

The signs from the United States do not bode well. The US postal service calculates that a quarter of its revenue is under threat from electronic media. Around 4 per cent of its business has already been lost to other communications services.

In Britain in 1985 some 200 organisations had installed computer systems; today the total is 13,000. It is predicted that by 2004 two-thirds of households will have computers.

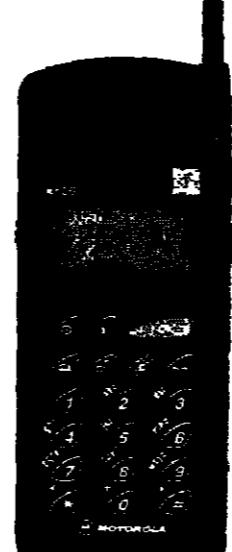
Royal Mail's management knows it cannot afford to stand still. That is why it is demanding higher productivity from its 134,000 sorting and delivery staff.

"The union is seeking job security, but strikes only serve to undermine the public's confidence in the service and our ability to deliver such security," a spokesman said.

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**NHS resources:** Royal College renews demands for independent national council on spending priorities

# Health ration decisions 'must be made public'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

Every day, Dr David Ebbs, a family GP from Didcot, decides not only what treatment to give but who will receive it. Like most general practitioners and hospital doctors in Britain he is no stranger to the concept of rationing healthcare. Constrained by the limits imposed on the NHS, he has even produced his own draft policy on making those choices. "I ration and prioritise on a daily basis," he said.

There is no doubt that rationing of healthcare already exists. But the wider problem, according to the Rationing Agenda Group, a leading group of healthcare specialists, is that so far, the public has not been involved in the debate.

The group's concern, voiced yesterday, came as the Royal College of Physicians renewed its demand for the Government to create an independent National Council for Health Care Priorities to provide guidelines on selecting services and choosing those to be treated.

The Rationing Agenda Group - involving leading

health academics, doctors, managers and members of health think-tanks such as the King's Fund - stressed that the issue now affects healthcare systems world-wide. But while more money might ease the constraints, "proposing other forms of finance is no escape from the fundamental issue" that has seen governments in Sweden, Norway, New Zealand and the Netherlands, set up studies on how to decide priorities. In Oregon, in the United States, the group said, there is even a system of lists detailing excluded treatments for the poor.

Richard Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal* which convened the group, stressed that rationing and priority setting are the same thing. "Rationing has always been the case in the NHS. But there needs to be proper debate on the issue - rationing means denying to people treatments which are proved to be beneficial."

Adult dental care and long-term care of the elderly in the NHS is "falling away", he said, and Britain's mental and geriatric health services were "absolutely threadbare". Mean-

while, some new and expensive treatments cost so much they could not possibly be available to everyone. The cost of saving one year of life for a middle-aged woman with raised cholesterol, for example, would be £360,000. "So, somebody, somewhere, has to make decisions about what will be available."

Dr Ebbs believes that the UK's funding system especially demands openness in place of the secretive, implicit decisions taken in the past about patients' treatments. His practice, he said, had to choose whether to spend spare money on cataracts or tonsil removals and then decide which patients would benefit ahead of others - even whether self-inflicted conditions, such as those related to smoking, should sway the decision.

The agenda group's report will examine decision-making methods practised by the Royal College's national council, Citizen's Juries and public opinion surveys. Robert Maxwell, secretary of the King's Fund, said: "There's no single solution, but the secretive way it was done in the past is not good enough."

■ *British Medical Journal*, 22 June issue.

'It's like a cheque-book baby'

"He's four-and-a-half months now. He's got gorgeous eyes, ginger hair and he's a little sweetie. He's got a smile that can melt the North Pole," Julie Scale said proudly. But had it not been for the anonymous businessman who stumped up £2,500 for private fertility treatment when she was turned down by the National Health Service, Mrs Scale would never have known that smile, writes Clare Garner.

She lives, crucially, in Sheffield. At 36, she was denied *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF) by the

local health authority on the grounds that she was "too old". She took her case to the High Court, but was told that Sheffield had imposed an age limit of 25-35 for IVF on the NHS because of limited resources of £200,000-a-year. Neighbouring health authorities, however, had set different age limits.

"IVF on the NHS is like a lottery," Mrs Scale, 38, said yesterday, cradling her son Julian.

## WHERE TREATMENTS ARE LIMITED

Almost a quarter of health authorities now explicitly ration services in at least some ways, according to a survey by the National Association of Health Authorities. But most of the exclusions centre on infertility treatments including IVF and reversal of vasectomies and sterilisations, tattoo removals and cosmetic procedures all of which the NHS has only ever provided to a limited degree.

And in almost all cases, authorities say they will agree to exceptions where doctors can make a special case for treatment. Some are considering going further - limiting in-

patient traction, wart treatments, in-patient psychotherapy and some other services.

But a whole range of services are effectively rationed implicitly - by setting limits on the number of hip replacements, IVF procedures or other treatments carried out by limiting the numbers treated with very expensive therapies, and by deciding the balance of spending between different parts of the service - heart transplants versus mental illness services versus childhood renal dialysis - even though these latter choices are rarely spelled out in public or even, necessarily, consciously compared.

Grommets for glue ear: Considered to be too widely used when many cases resolve naturally. Five and Birmingham health authorities among others plan reductions

Cochlear implants: Provided in only very limited numbers

Tattoo removal: Fewer and fewer authorities provide it, save for exceptional cases. Some hospitals promoting their private service

IVF: 12 Health Authorities, including Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire, say they won't purchase it. Others set age limits: 36 at start of treatment in South Lancashire, 40 in Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth

D & C: Often inappropriate in women under 40, though some may benefit. Many authorities purchasing fewer, none, or considering doing so

Warts: North-West Anglia considering excluding warts

Eyes: Cornwall health authority says it cannot afford to introduce comprehensive glaucoma screening service

Heart: Expensive cholesterol-lowering drugs can save lives. But would cost £360,000 per year of life saved if given to all middle-aged women who might benefit

Back pain: North-West Anglia considering excluding in-patient traction

Hips: Routine Hormone Replacement Therapy for older women to prevent fractures. Might prevent 5 per cent of fractures but authorities resisting screening programmes

Varicose veins: Treatment for purely cosmetic reasons ruled out by growing numbers of health authorities

Beta-interferon: £10,000 a year treatment for multiple sclerosis. Reduces frequency of relapses in some, but does not change long-term outcome. Some authorities declining to provide it until better evidence available

The Government signalled the possible end of the development of new out-of-town shopping complexes yesterday when it unveiled a stringent set of planning guidelines designed to protect Britain's town centres.

The guidelines are intended to make it more difficult for developers to gain planning consent for edge-of-town and out-of-town schemes unless town centre options have been explored first.

Though some campaigners welcomed the new approach, others said it offered too little too late and that the damage to the high street had already been done.

Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East, said: "This was

not a statement. It was an apology for years of neglect by this government of Britain's town and city centres. Over the years we have warned that government time and time again that the pursuit of their planning policies would destroy town centres. They ignored our concerns."

The fresh guidelines were announced by John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, whose initial guidelines three years ago have had only a marginal effect. The central issue is that developments on the outskirts of cities will only be allowed if more central schemes were not possible. Out-of-town schemes will only be tolerated as a last resort.

Better town-centre designs will be encouraged, with more emphasis on secure, affordable car parking and mixed-use developments which include leisure activities as well as shops.

Mr Gummer said: "Cities and towns are the heart of our civilisation and we need their life and vigour for our survival. Towns are where most of our population live, work and shop. It is where we should be encouraging the location of shops, offices, leisure and housing."

The curbs will affect major property developers and the supermarket groups which are engaged in a constant battle with local authorities to build out-of-town superstores.

## Gummer moves to revive town centres

NIGEL COPE

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# arts news

edited by David Lister

## Top orchestras 'papering' over audience cracks

NORMAN LEBRECHT  
and CHRIS PHILP

Some of Britain's finest classical orchestras are playing to half-capacity audiences with many in the auditorium paying nothing, or as little as a penny, for their tickets.

Although the audience figures are not made public, internal figures held by the orchestras indicate that both the Royal Festival Hall and the Barbican are playing to 35 per cent full houses for symphonic concerts.

These figures, low as they are, include many tickets that are given away to the media or distributed discreetly within the music industry and beyond. In one case, a kitchen porter at a London teaching hospital has been responsible for handing out free concert tickets to nurses and medical students over a number of years.

A senior orchestral source told the *Independent* yesterday that the practice of giving concert tickets away, or "papering", is widespread within the classical music industry. "Promoters, concerned that

concert halls will be empty, use a clandestine network of contacts to put the word out that the tickets are available," she said.

"Hospitals and fire stations are often used. One contact at a London hospital, who is used regularly, can produce 200 to 300 people on one night."

Some free seats are disguised in audience figures and accounts by charging a nominal fee, thus allowing the orchestras to count the free seats as paid for.

According to one former orchestra administrator, it is not uncommon for £45 tickets to be sold for 50 pence. "The ludicrous situation often arises when people sitting in adjacent seats have paid a few pence and over £40 respectively."

Richard York, deputy chief executive at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, has wide experience of leading London venues. He said yesterday: "Papering the house with giveaway tickets is a common practice in the capital. It takes place on a fairly regular basis to fill houses that would otherwise be an embar-

rassment." The Barbican Centre admitted yesterday that it is one of the venues where papering takes place. Lisa Collins, a press officer, confirmed that the practice occurs, but would not "divulge commercially sensitive information on pricing and promotions".

A spokesman for the Royal Festival Hall, which attracts average audiences of 1,700 per performance against its 2,700-seat capacity, denied that "papering" was officially sanctioned, but refused to give box-office revenue figures.

Part of the reason for declining audiences is that young music lovers, raised on three-minute pop discs and quick-cut television soaps, lack the patience to sit through an hour of Bruckner. Senior citizens, who form the bulk of subscribers, often now fear to venture into inner cities. The practice of massaging audience figures is detailed in a new book on the classical music industry to be published next month.

■ *When the Music Stops*, by Norman Lebrecht, is published by Simon & Schuster on 1 July, price £16.99.



Dancing on air: Shoes worn by Darcey Bussell of the Royal Ballet were up for auction (estimate £70) last night at Trinity Hospice, south-west London, in the hospice movement's fund-raising Sunflower Week. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Penguin chief to join family business

JOJO MOYES

The head of the Penguin Group of publishers is leaving after 18 years to run his family's trade publishing house in New York, it was announced yesterday.

Peter Mayer, chairman and chief executive officer since 1978, will leave Penguin at the end of this year to take charge of the Overlook Press, a publishing house he established with his father in 1971.

Mr Mayer will continue to act in the role of "senior adviser" to Penguin, possibly Britain's best-known publisher with authors ranging from Graham Greene and Gabriel Garcia Marquez to Dick Francis and Stephen King. Duncan Campbell-Smith, recently appointed development director at Penguin UK, is among those tipped as his successor.

Mr Mayer, 60, was seen as an unlikely addition to Penguin because of his direct, almost "brash" approach. He presided over the unpopular closure of the Pelican line of books and the unexpectedly popular launch of the 60p classic, which is said to have changed received wisdom about the way the public acquires culture.

More importantly, he has overseen Penguin's recent transformation from a loss-making business.

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Penguin  
chief to  
join family  
business

JOHN WILSON

HELEN WOMACK

Moscow

Whether they were really trying to stop the second round of the Russian presidential election or whether they were set up by Boris Yeltsin's campaign team, we will probably never know. But the result of their sacking yesterday is clear.

The bodyguard Alexander Korzhakov, the secret policeman Mikhail Barsukov, and the defence industry bureaucrat Oleg Soskovets have lost the powerful influence they exerted over their boss, which made despairing reformers lament the Kremlin who had set his heart on a second term. He stopped short of sacking him, however.

It may be his strength as a human being but it is his weakness as a politician that Mr Yeltsin is loyal to his friends. And Gen Korzhakov, a bull-like figure with dark, greasy hair plastered across his bald pate, was an old friend.

A career KGB officer, he was assigned to protect Mr Yeltsin when he came to the capital from Sverdlovsk in 1985 as the invitation of the then Kremlin leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to run the Moscow branch of the Communist Party.

When in 1987 Mr Gorbachev bounded Mr Yeltsin from office, the bodyguard showed unusually

in the country, not the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. Gen Korzhakov, aided by his cronies, bugged the telephones of ministers and interfered in economic policy, and allegedly ran a slush fund from the profits of oil, gold and diamond exports and a "think-tank" which spread disinformation.

Meanwhile his deputy, Major General Georgy Rogozin, lulled the ailing Mr Yeltsin into a sense of well-being by ordering horoscopes for him, "correcting his karma" and making sure his bed was always aligned on a north-south axis.

Gen Korzhakov, who had too much to lose from changing the status quo, was never keen on the elections taking place and in May said they should be cancelled to prevent the risk of bloodshed. But he was publicly rebuked by Mr Yeltsin who had set his heart on a second term. He stopped short of sacking him, however.

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Fall from grace: Gen Alexander Korzhakov (left), and the First Deputy Prime Minister, Oleg Soskovets (right), with President Yeltsin. Photographs: AP/Reuters

al courage in standing by his disgraced boss. And at another difficult moment, during the attempt by hardliners to overthrow Mr Gorbachev in August 1991, Korzhakov was at Mr Yeltsin's side as he stood with him on a tank trying to rally the crowds to resist the putsch.

When Mr Yeltsin took over the Kremlin, he rewarded his faithful sidekick by making him

head of the presidential security service, a body which officially has 800 men although Russian press reports say it is really 4,000 strong. He also put him in charge of the crack Alpha anti-terrorist unit.

Mr Yeltsin's trust was not misplaced. During the parliamentary uprising of October 1993, the bodyguard played a key role. After Gen Grachev

had sent tanks against the White House, Gen Korzhakov arrested the rebels and escorted them to Lefortovo Prison.

In his memoirs, Mr Yeltsin wrote: "Alexander Korzhakov and I have been inseparable since 1985 when I moved to Moscow. He is a very decent, intelligent, strong and courageous person. While outwardly he seems very

simple, behind this simplicity is a sharp mind and an excellent and clear head."

Alexander Kazannik, a former public prosecutor, put it another way. "I have the impression he decides everything in the Kremlin. Everyone there knows that in order to drag through a doubtful decision or sign an illegal decree, you have to go to Gen Korzhakov."

Russian town of Budyonovsk, parliament was screaming for cabinet heads. Sergei Stepashin, head of the FSB, was fired and a successor was needed.

Gen Barsukov, 48, the head of the Kremlin guard, a man who had spent his entire career in the Kremlin, was appointed because he was a protege of Gen Korzhakov. Given his lack of wider experience, it was inevitable he would foul up, which he did spectacularly in January when he took a sledgehammer to crack a nut in the Daghestani village of Pervomaiskoye where Chechen rebels were again holding hostages.

The First Deputy Prime Minister, Oleg Soskovets, the third man to lose his job yesterday, is not such a colourful character, but the reformer Anatoly Chubais, who accused the three of planning a coup, called him their "spiritual father".

Another influential figure from the old Yeltsin entourage remains in place for the time being - the President's tennis coach, Shamil Tarpishev. He is closely linked to Boris Yeltsin, head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor to the domestic departments of the KGB, who was shot in the stomach this week by unknown assailants and is now fighting for his life. Conspiracy theorists suggest that somebody wanted him dead lest he reveal too much.

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## 10 international

# India could block nuclear test treaty

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

India yesterday said it would not sign the global nuclear test ban treaty until the existing nuclear weapons states committed themselves to eliminating their nuclear arsenals within roughly a decade. India's opposition threatens to derail the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) negotiations, which are due to finish on 28 June or, if it is signed, to prevent it ever taking effect.

India said it would remain at the negotiations. But the opposition of one of the three "nuclear threshold" states — India, Pakistan and Israel — could delay adoption of the treaty for which negotiators have been striving for almost 40 years, and even if it is signed, render it ineffective.

India is one of eight countries — the five declared nuclear powers and three "threshold" powers — which the official nuclear powers want to ratify the treaty before it comes into force. India also refused to accept that provision yesterday. The official nuclear powers believe that unless the treaty

becomes law in the threshold states, which either have nuclear weapons (Israel), or could build them very easily (India and Pakistan), it will be meaningless.

India's Foreign Minister, IK Gujral, said: "The treaty as it has been drafted is a charade. If we want to rid the world of these weapons, then it is the five powers, which have these weapons, which have to do something." India's stand means that the five nuclear weapons states will have to make some concession to India, including a commitment not to build new nuclear weapons and some sort of timetable for eventual nuclear disarmament, or agree to let the CTBT come into force without India.

The first discussion of an international nuclear test ban treaty began in 1958. Some arms control campaigners fear that if the 28 June deadline is not met, 40 years of work to reach the CTBT will have been in vain. But diplomatic sources last night said a further delay for negotiations would not kill the treaty.

To ensure new nuclear weapons worked it was necessary to test them, and nuclear stockpiles also had to be tested periodically to check they still

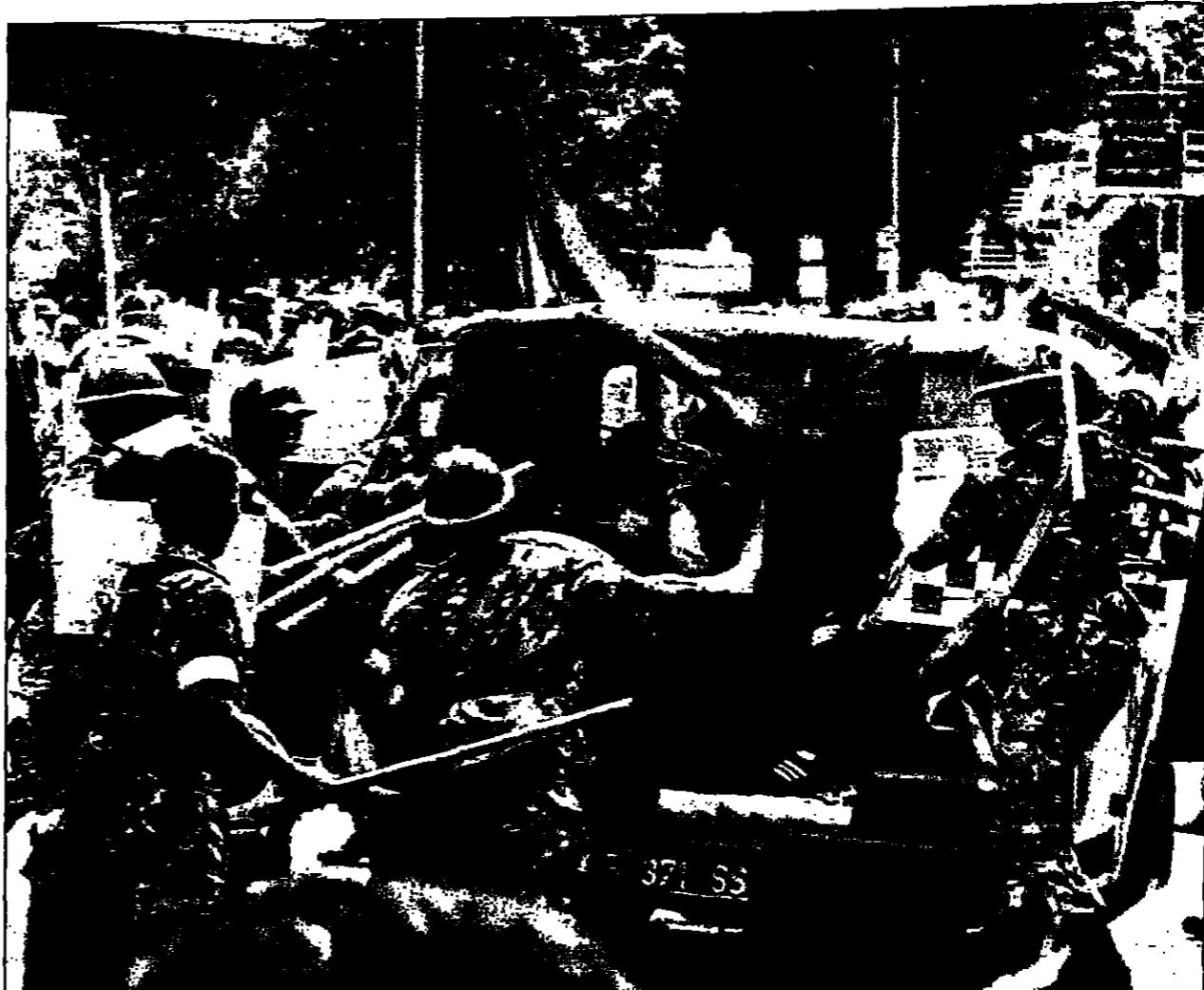
worked. However, modern computer simulation techniques have made tests unnecessary. France's nuclear tests in the Pacific last year were the last, and Monday's agreement between France and the US to share nuclear data has further obviated the need for tests.

Some experts also question whether India would need to test nuclear weapons. Pravin Sawhney, a former Indian Army officer and a research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London, said India could build "boosted fission" devices — nuclear fission bombs with a fusion component similar to the first British "H-bombs" — and with a yield of up to 500 kilotonnes — without tests.

"The Indian government has invested heavily in super-computing and related software," Mr Sawhney wrote in the Institute's journal.

"It is assumed Israel is capable of manufacturing nuclear weapons and has deployed them. India's nuclear infrastructure and scientific base is as well developed as that of Israel. If the latter can make nuclear weapons without testing, India can certainly do it".

## Indonesian troops quash protest rally



Jakarta (AP) — Indonesian soldiers beating supporters of the main opposition party after about 5,000 of them tried to stage a demonstration outside the Home Affairs ministry in Jakarta.

Dozens of protesters fell to the ground with injuries. One person was run over by a jeep in which some of the protesters were trying to flee. The charge against the demonstrators, who wore their party's red shirts and

headbands, was led by the chief of staff of the Jakarta military command, who grabbed a party flag from a young man and tore it apart. "You dogs, you are only troublemakers," he shouted. The army denied committing any brutality and said that the soldiers had been attacked with stones.

The violence occurred after

the demonstrators from the Indonesia Democratic Party held a march to protest against

a military-backed dissidents' congress, which was held to oust their party's leader Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Mrs Megawati is the daughter of Indonesia's former leader, president Sukarno, and has emerged as a possible challenger to President Suharto, a former army general, in the 1998 elections. The military takes an active part in running Indonesia's government. Out of parliament's 500 seats, 100 are

reserved for the military.

Earlier yesterday, party rebels

began a three-day congress in the western city of Medan with a speech by General Feisal Tanjung, commander of the armed forces.

President Suharto has ruled

the country since 1966. He moved in after crushing a failed coup against Sukarno that was blamed on Communists. It led to the massacre of up to half a million people.

## Kohl buys peace by caving in to unions

IMRE KARACS  
Bonn

Germany averted a summer of strikes in the public sector yesterday, but at a price that looks set to bust its budget ahead of European Monetary Union.

After a series of warning strikes, a huge trade union demonstration and rebellion within government ranks, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's budget has become significantly less austere than was intended. Economists calculate that in 1997, the year

when applicants must bring their budget deficits to within three per cent of GDP to qualify for monetary union, Germany's deficit will be about 3.5 per cent.

The final blow against Mr Kohl's "savings package" was struck yesterday by the public employees' trade union, OTV, which settled for a 1.3 per cent pay rise for next year, on top of a one-off payment of 300 German marks (£130) each. The government had offered no pay increase for two years, but

caved in after a month of well-coordinated strikes, which paralysed different towns on different days.

The cost of its retreat is a cool DM4.1bn, but Mr Kohl has also been rowing back on welfare cuts. The pension age for women will not, after all, be raised to 65; sick pay might not be cut by 20 per cent, and child benefits will increase by 10 per cent next year. Thus, the original budget cuts of DM50bn have been whittled down to about DM35bn.

Beside money, the unions have forced Mr Kohl to abandon plans to abolish protection for workers in firms with less than 10 employees. In the long term, this will only cement an already rigid labour market, discouraging small entrepreneurs from hiring more staff.

Politicians attribute the German economy's woes to labour costs, which are the highest in the world. These accrue from the heavy social security contributions, which Mr Kohl has tried — and now failed — to cut.

## Arab leaders huddle together to conjure up ghost of unity

ROBERT FISK  
Cairo

King Hassan of Morocco is in too much of a huff to come. The ruler of Qatar can't make it because he's a little worried that his deposed father may re-take his emirate while he's away. Muammar Gaddafi, the Arab world's favourite colonel, has not yet made up his mind. Sultan Qaboos of Oman won't be here because he was on holiday in Cairo only recently. And Saddam Hussein has not been invited because of what Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, sweetly referred to as "continuing sensitivities".

But the President of the French-speaking Comoros Islands, Mohamed Taki Abdoukarim, — not perhaps the first name that comes to mind in almost half a century of Arab-Israeli conflict — has already arrived in Cairo to attend the make-or-break post-peace-process" Arab summit.

It is, of course, easy to be cynical about Arab unity, the one concept that has defeated Arab

that doesn't exist because Somalia is in a state of fratricidal war. Few doubt that it is for President Assad of Syria that President Mubarak called the first Arab summit in six years.

Even fewer doubt that Syria faces an American campaign of vilification to persuade the world that Syria, rather than Israel, is responsible for the collapse of the Middle East peace accords, a collapse which almost all the Arabs here will have to pretend has not yet occurred; because the Cairo summit is supposed to present the Arabs as four-square behind the American-brokered pact, ready and waiting for the West's promises of land-for-peace to be honoured.

If those promises are not honoured, then Syria may demand a renewed Arab economic boycott of Israel. Yasser Arafat will demand that the world insist that Israel stand by the Oslo accords, even though the world has no obligation to do, so since Mr Arafat sought no international guarantees for his "peace" with Israel — and does

King Hussein of Jordan, who almost decided on non-attendance, will urge moderation, reminding delegates that he is the only Arab leader present to have personally met the much-feared Bibi Netanyahu. President Mubarak will call for a common stand on future peace-making and, of course, for Arab unity. Which will please Libya's foreign minister, whose official title is — you guessed it — the "Secretary for Arab Unity".

King Hassan's absence is easily explained. He wasn't consulted about summit planning. Nor for that matter was King Hussein, although he is coming, along with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd being, as they say, unwell — and the Emir of Bahrain, who is taking time off from a little local trouble at home. Syria will also want to debate Turkey's threat to the Euphrates water supply and to its northern border, a pressing problem for all the Arabs, since the Ottoman Empire sometimes seems more real than Arab unity.

Essay, page 18

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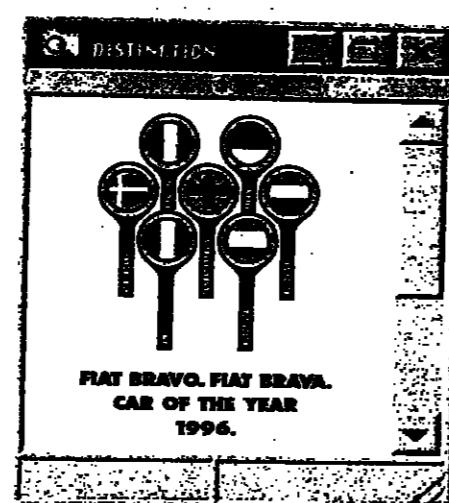
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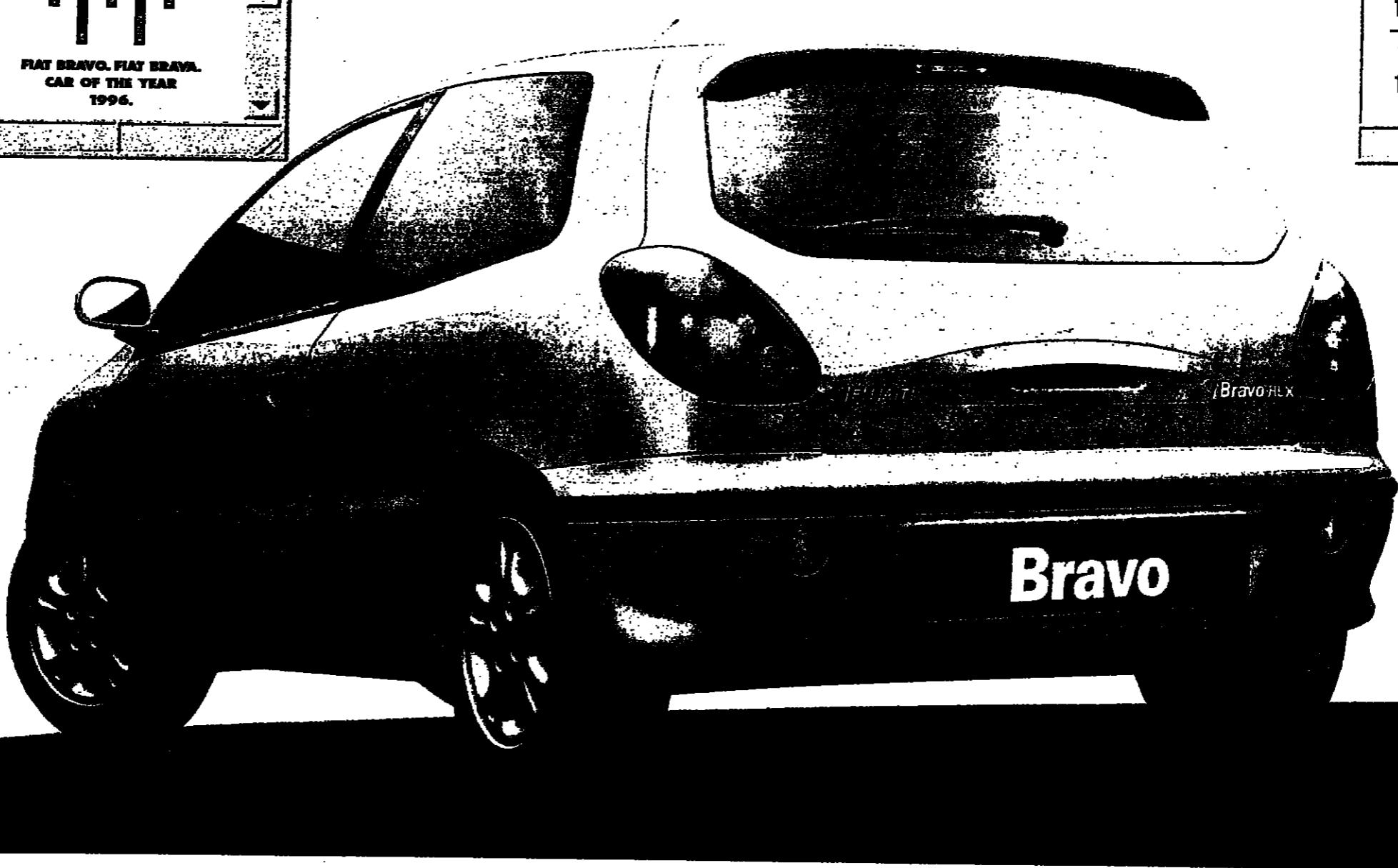
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# Washington to block UN chief's second term

DAVID USBORNE  
New York

Boutros-Ghali faces almost certain termination as the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the end of this year following confirmation yesterday that President Bill Clinton will not support him for a second term.

Mr Boutros-Ghali has simultaneously made it clear that he intends running as a candidate none the less, setting the stage for a potentially bruising struggle between governments sympathetic to him and the United States at a time when the UN is facing an array of delicate problems.

The former Egyptian foreign minister, who will be 74 in November, is well liked by most of the developing world. On the Security Council at least China, Russia and France are believed to favour him for a second term. Britain yesterday refused to take any public position on his future.

The White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, indicated that the President had decided several weeks ago to block Mr Boutros-Ghali's re-election. Mr Clinton has come under intense domestic pressure to find a new candidate for the post, notably from Republicans on Capitol Hill. In the history of the UN, however, no previous Secretary-General has been denied a second term.

"The President now believes it is very important to get new leadership of a very vital international organisation that has many challenges," Mr McCurry said. "It is important to have leadership that is capable of reforming the UN bureaucracy and decreasing the cost of financing the United Nations."

The struggle to agree on a candidate for the post now begins in earnest and will culminate in an informal election, by a show of hands, inside the Security Council towards the end of this year. Because the US will be in a position to exercise a veto in the council, Mr Boutros-

Ghali's prospects must be bleak indeed. Any change of heart by Washington seems unlikely.

Mr Boutros-Ghali, who is on an official visit to Germany, said yesterday: "I still hope that the United States will change its position. We still have six months until the election." He is scheduled to visit London next Wednesday for talks with the Prime Minister, John Major,

sarly be the rule of law. This is a democratic institution," Ahmed Fawzi, a spokesman for the Secretary-General, said.

He suggested that Mr Boutros-Ghali had been undermined by an unfair campaign against him in the US media.

"It is disheartening to see lies being said about this organisation. I can tell you, I am really sick of it."

Mr Fawzi said that the Secretary-General had been assured the support in his re-election effort from a "majority of the member states of the UN" and that this included specific pledges from "members of the Security Council".

For France, President Jacques Chirac has stated publicly in recent weeks that he would like Mr Boutros-Ghali to serve another term. A spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry in Paris said yesterday: "There is a long tradition of Secretaries-General being given a second term and you know the esteem and the regard in which we hold Mr Boutros-Ghali." The spokesman stopped short of pledging to fight the US on the issue, however.

Two figures who have been frequently mentioned in recent weeks as possible replacements for the Secretary-General claimed yesterday that they would, in fact, not be running.

They include the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, the chief of the UN High Commission for Refugees, Japan's Sadako Ogata, and Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Prime Minister of Norway. The name of Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian who is the chief of UN peacekeeping, has also been mentioned.

Resentment is sure to boil up inside the United Nations at the position taken by the US. A large number of developing countries make little secret of their contempt for the role of the US in the organisation, especially since it owes it some \$1.5bn (£1bn) in unpaid dues, roughly half of the UN's debt.

This game has already been running for several weeks though we, the public, knew nothing of it. President Bill Clinton, if transpires, decided to

and the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind.

In a non-committal statement, the Foreign Office praised Mr Boutros-Ghali as a "distinguished statesman who has served with honour in one of the world's most difficult assignments at a very testing period in the United Nations' history". Britain was not a supporter of Mr Boutros-Ghali when he was appointed in 1990 and is unlikely to oppose him now.

There was undisguised disgust from Mr Boutros-Ghali's inner circle in New York at the American decision. "Because one member state says one thing, that should not necessarily be the rule of law. This is a democratic institution," Ahmed Fawzi, a spokesman for the Secretary-General, said.

He suggested that Mr Boutros-Ghali had been undermined by an unfair campaign against him in the US media.

"It is disheartening to see lies being said about this organisation. I can tell you, I am really sick of it."

Mr Fawzi said that the Secretary-General had been assured the support in his re-election effort from a "majority of the member states of the UN" and that this included specific pledges from "members of the Security Council".

For France, President Jacques Chirac has stated publicly in recent weeks that he would like Mr Boutros-Ghali to serve another term. A spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry in Paris said yesterday: "There is a long tradition of Secretaries-General being given a second term and you know the esteem and the regard in which we hold Mr Boutros-Ghali." The spokesman stopped short of pledging to fight the US on the issue, however.

Two figures who have been frequently mentioned in recent weeks as possible replacements for the Secretary-General claimed yesterday that they would, in fact, not be running.

They include the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, the chief of the UN High Commission for Refugees, Japan's Sadako Ogata, and Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Prime Minister of Norway. The name of Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian who is the chief of UN peacekeeping, has also been mentioned.

Resentment is sure to boil up inside the United Nations at the position taken by the US. A large number of developing countries make little secret of their contempt for the role of the US in the organisation, especially since it owes it some \$1.5bn (£1bn) in unpaid dues, roughly half of the UN's debt.

This game has already been running for several weeks though we, the public, knew nothing of it. President Bill Clinton, if transpires, decided to

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### THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES



**Mary Robinson:** Elected 1990 as Ireland's first woman president. Robinson, 52, has been touted as a candidate by Irish-Americans. Has said she was not interested in the UN post, but this month spoke in New York of her views on the future of the organisation and her vision of globalisation.

**Gro Harlem Brundtland:** Became Norway's youngest-ever Prime Minister in 1981, when she formed first of several governments, most recently in 1990. The former leader of Norway's Labor Party, Brundtland, 57, served as head of the UN Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

**Sadako Ogata:** A former dean at Tokyo's Sophia University, Ogata, 68, was elected UN High Commissioner for Refugees in 1990 and is considered one of the organisation's most effective administrators. Her agency is one of the UN's largest, and cares for millions of refugees worldwide.

## Secret manoeuvres in search for replacement

There is an open door waiting for anyone out there aspiring to be the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, writes David Usborne. But know this: the race between now and 31 December will be one of dissembling and deceit, with the powers elbowing one another for advantage and where nothing can be taken at face value.

This game has already been running for several weeks though we, the public, knew nothing of it. President Bill Clinton, if transpires, decided to

ditch Boutros-Ghali in late March and the Secretary-General was told as much by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, in mid-May.

An attempt to offer the Egyptian an exit with dignity, by way of an extension of just one year, fell flat because he himself did not care for it.

So who does the White House want in his place? Apparently, it has no name in mind. It is widely believed, moreover, that were the US openly to nominate someone, it

would be akin to a kiss of death for that candidate, so widespread is the disdain for Washington inside the organisation.

The qualities President Clinton would seek are easier to discern. Above all, he wants a person with a record of organisational skills who will pledge to transform the UN into something resembling less a world bureaucracy and more a modern corporation.

If that candidate happens also to have a phone book full of high political contacts, it

next continent in line for the Secretary-General is Asia.

Denials from potential candidates should be treated with caution. Only when a show of hands inside the Security Council, probably in December, settles on a new Secretary-General will there be any certainty about the race. Between now and then, the game to find that person will be joined intensely by London, Washington, Paris, Moscow, Peking and other capitals and it will all be behind tightly closed doors.

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## international

# Exiles press West towards Tehran spring



Maryam Rajavi: Makes her first public appearance in Britain tonight to discuss women and Islamic fundamentalism. Photograph: Tony Buckingham

John Lichfield interviews the woman leader of Iran's opposition, who tells him of her hopes for more support

Maryam Rajavi sits presiding before an Iranian flag in the presidential suite of a leading London hotel. Wearing a lilac suit, lilac headscarf and lilac shoes, she looks looks, by turn, beautiful, serene, vexed.

To her supporters, Mrs Rajavi, 43, is the President-elect of a post-theocratic democratic Iran - the leader, along with her husband, of the only serious resistance to the fundamentalist regime in Tehran. According to the French authorities, the Iranian regime recently paid her the compliment of plotting to blow her to pieces in her place of exile, a village just outside Paris (names of Ayatollah Khomeini).

To her detractors, including many other exiled Iranians and most Western governments, Mrs Rajavi is the figurehead of a deeply suspect, even sinister, organisation, the People's Mujahedin of Iran. Despite a plausible veneer of democracy and efficient public relations, critics claim the internal workings of the Mujahedin - and its political wing the National Resistance Council - are as brutal and repressive as anything dreamed up by the Ayatollah and his successors.

"Her background is a kind of anti-Western, Islamic Marxism. She is not as cuddly as she seems," said one Western expert on Iran.

Tonight Mrs Rajavi will make her first public appearance in Britain at an event at Earls Court in London, which is mostly cultural, but finally political. The event, entitled "Women, Voice of the Oppressed", is billed as a response to the persecution and repression of women by the fundamentalist brand of Islam popularised in Tehran. More than 20,000 people, including many Iranian exiles, are expected to attend. One of the performers will be the celebrated Iranian diva, Marzieh, who fled Iran two years ago after refusing to sing for 15 years in protest against the rule of the mullahs.

The Earls Court gathering is an attempt by the Iranian resistance to play to what it hopes is one of its strengths. Mrs Rajavi, in her interview with the *Independent*, said: "We wish to show that Islam is not, in itself, misogynist. There can be a moderate Islam which respects women's rights and gives women, as our movement does, a prominent role."

The promotion of women within the ranks of the Mujahedin extends to their military wing, a sizeable, armoured force, based, courtesy of Saddam Hussein, on the Iran-Iraq border. Many tank commanders, even battalion commanders, are women. The overall military commander, based in the desert, is Massoud Rajavi,

Mrs Rajavi's husband. Despite her status as President-elect, Western governments insist that he is the real power in a movement they regard with deep distaste.

Here is a seeming paradox: the Iranian government is one of the most reviled in the world; the Mujahedin are by far the best funded, and best organised, certainly the most visible opposition to that regime. And yet they are almost equally reviled by the powers-that-be in the West. The Iraqi connections are one explanation - but not a complete explanation - for Western hostility. How does Mrs Rajavi account for it?

She giggles patiently and shapes her hands into a triangle. "You know, there is a

is understandable: the Mujahedin were co-conspirators with the mullahs against the Shah. They played a part in the popular revolution which overthrew the peacock throne in 1979-80, before their turn came to be crushed by Khomeini in 1981. But what of the many virulent, non-royalist opponents of the mullahs who also express antagonism to the Mujahedin? One Iranian said: "If there was any threat of them coming to power, most sensible Iranian exiles would take the side of the mullahs against them. We would be just swapping one tyranny for another and Mujahedin tyranny would probably be more efficient."

Asked about this, Mrs Rajavi becomes animated, even angry. "I think one has to ask, who are these Iranians? Many of these people, despite what they say, prefer the status quo - the Khomeini regime - to any alternative. There are others who are afraid. There are many proven cases of threats against these people to make these criticisms of us... Everyone says we are well-organised, well-funded. But you have to remember that cannot happen in a vacuum. Our strength and our funds come from the deep roots we have in the people of Iran, both inside and outside the country."

Mrs Rajavi signals to one of her smartly dark-suited male colleagues to bring forward an album showing scores of examples of pro-Mujahedin slogans and posters on walls inside Iran. She insists that the critics are wrong: her movement is not Marxist or authoritarian. It is committed to free markets, free expression, freedom of religion.

"The model of the kind of society and economy I would like to see in Iran would be that of the Nordic countries. We would expect an open society where economic and personal diversity would prosper."

How long will it be before the second Iranian revolution comes? Mrs Rajavi smiles sweetly. She offers no timetable but gives what she admits is a practised reply. "One does not need to wait for spring to arrive to be sure that spring will come."



Ayatollah Khomeini: Crushed the Mujahedin in 1981.

misperception that Western governments oppose the Iranian regime," she said. "The fact of the matter is that the mullahs in Iran possess so much commercial weight and Western businesses are so keen to reach deals with them that no government can make a statement of support for the Iranian resistance."

She points out (accurately) that the official investigation into the Iran-Contra scandal showed that the Reagan administration had agreed to verify her movement as part of Washington's complex and disastrous series of quid pro quo with Tehran. The same sort of understanding with the mullahs exists to this day, she says.

"One of our demands has been that, if Western countries are not prepared to assist the revolution of the Iranian people, at least they should remain neutral. In those circumstances, it would not take long for the Iranian people and our movement to, if you like, settle the account and rid the world of the growing menace from Iran."

But what of the equally deep suspicions of many exiled Iranians? The hostility of royalists

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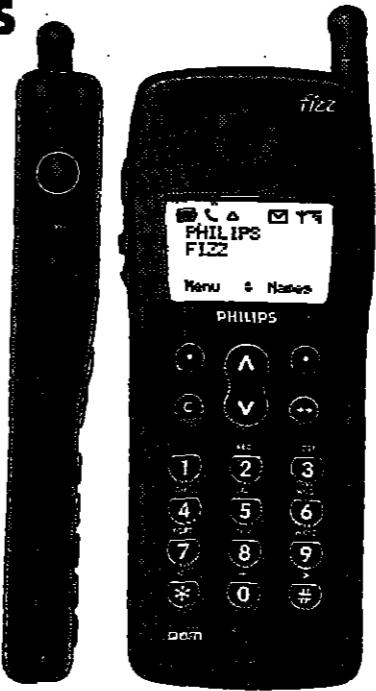
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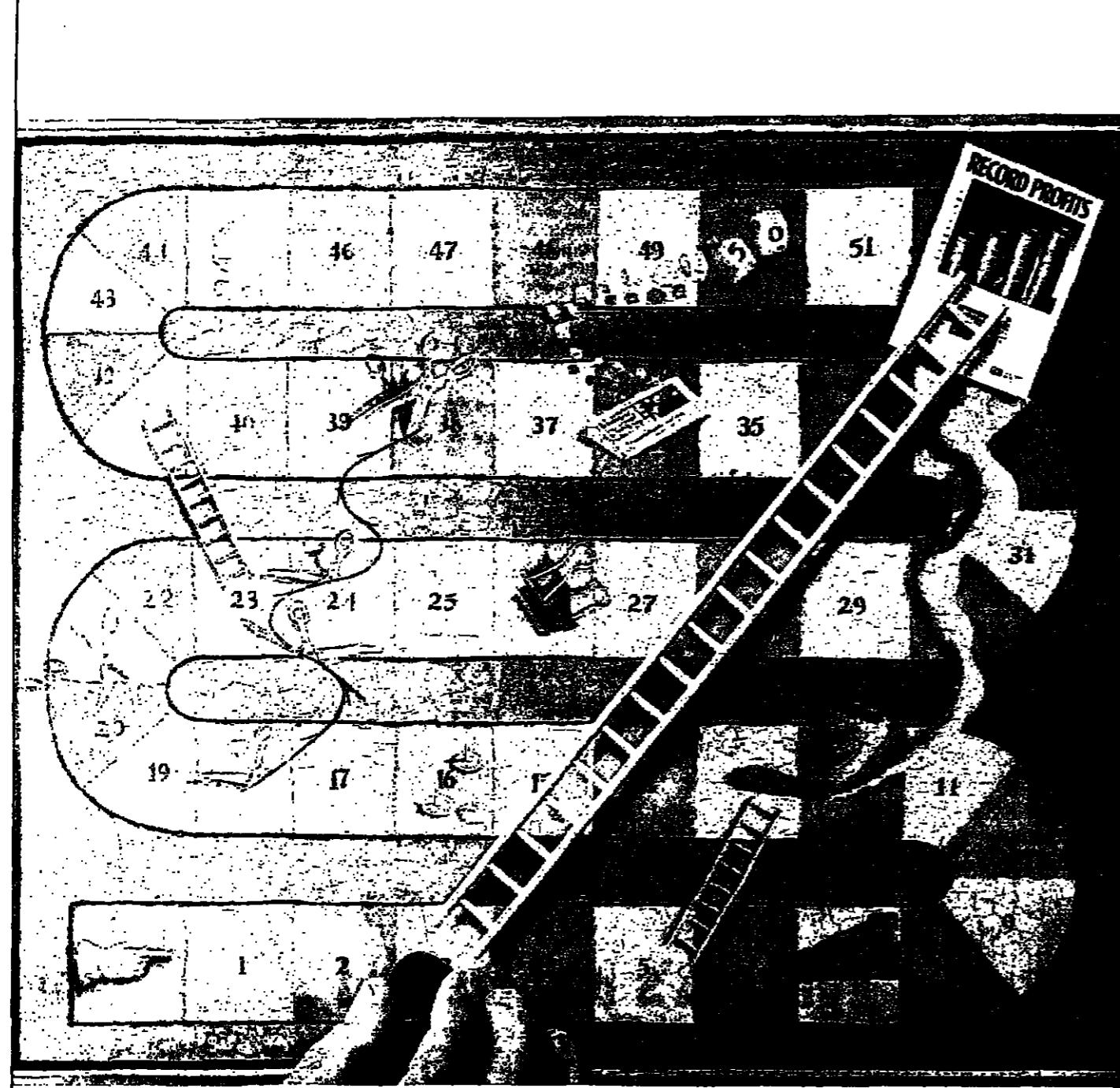
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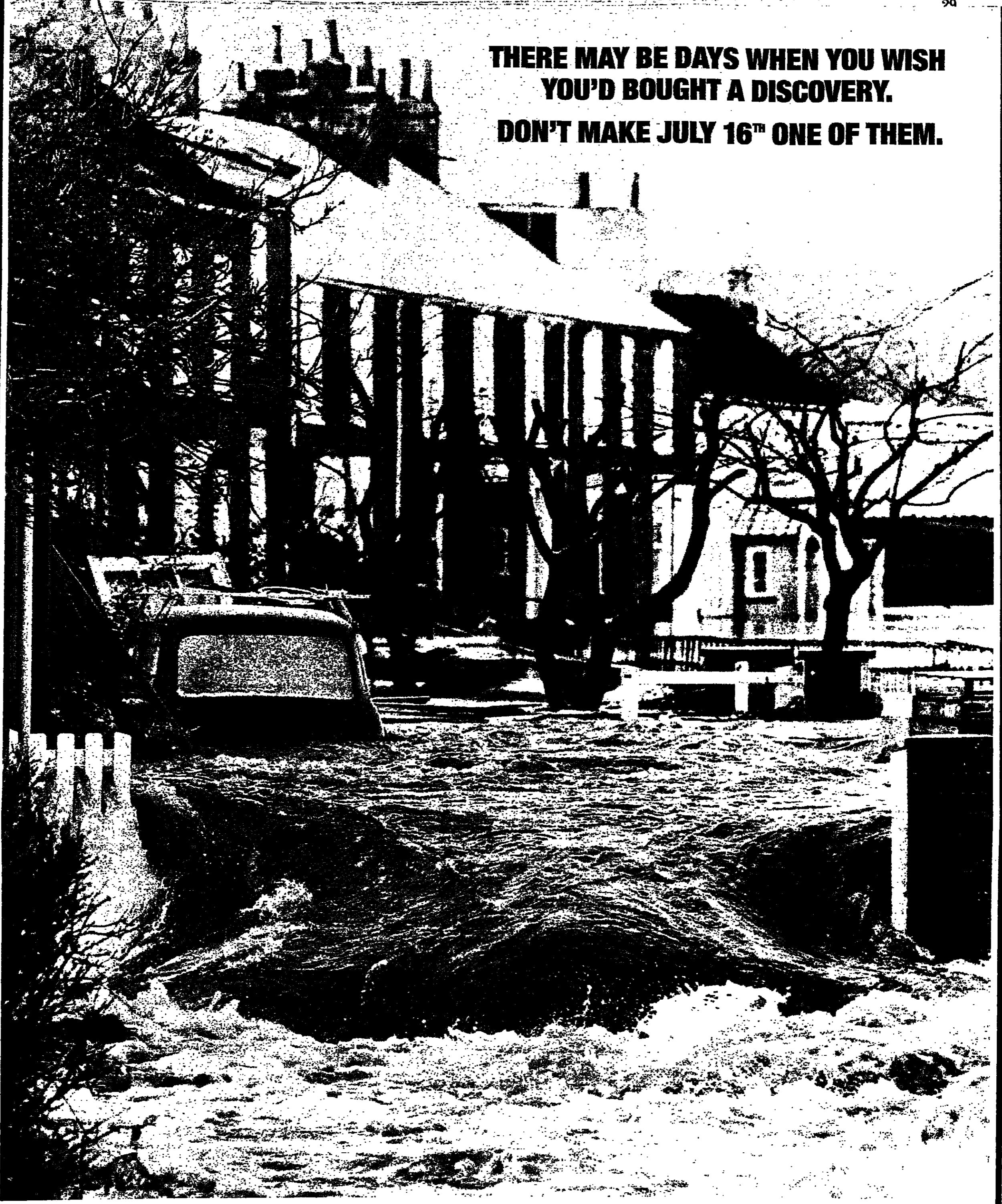
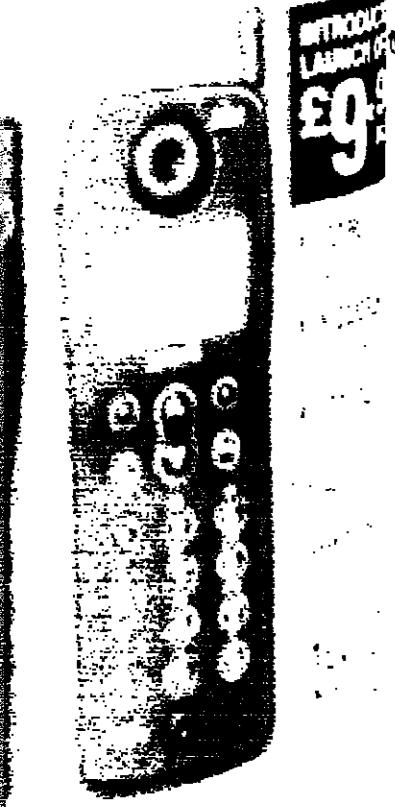
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# obituaries/gazette

## Vivian Ellis

Can we ever hope to hear more enchanting tunes than "This Is My Lovely Day", "Spread A Little Happiness", "Ma Belle Marguerite" or "I'm On A See-saw"? Or a more poignant song than "Other People's Babies" (a nanny's lament)? And where can you hope to find as charming a 1930s musical comedy – not a parody but the real thing – as Mr Cinders?

The talent of Vivian Ellis ranged with assurance right through the English musical theatre for over 70 years, from the revues of C.B. Cochran between the wars to post-war operettas with A.P. Herbert, and was to prove so quintessentially English that for a while it seemed Ellis stood alone in resisting the all-powerful, pounding Broadway musical which had invaded the British stage from the mid-1940s.

Years before either *The Boyfriend* or *Salad Days* piped up on behalf of the small-scale, two pianos-and-drums show, Ellis had proved that an Englishman could write songs as well as anyone in the world.

*Big Ben* (1947) may not have been exactly a hit, but its successor, *Bless the Bride* (1947), undoubtedly was; and though he never had another success to match it except his first, *Mr Cinders* (1929), the length of a show's run has little, as he well knew, to do with its quality.

*Tough As The Top* (1949), *And So To Bed* (1951) and *Water Gypsies* (1955) won favour with the connoisseurs not merely on patriotic grounds as asserting the art of English musical comedy with a character of its own in the face of the transatlantic model but as creating a specifically home-bred feeling of gentle, intelligent and anti-brash entertainment for players weary of the slick and noisy.

Kenneth Tynan for instance reckoned *Water Gypsies*, about the life of people who live on canal barges, to be only inches short of a "matchless museum masterpiece" as a Cockney pastoral in which it seemed as if Hammersmith had become "a rural hamlet peopled with quaint bargees whose joys are homely and whose destiny is forever obscure".

The partnership between Ellis and Herbert, a Punch humorist and parliamentarian, became something of a landmark in British musical theatre; and it never prospered better than in *Bless the Bride*, an en-

chanting period piece, as revivals at Exeter (1985) and Sadlers Wells (1987) reminded a younger generation. If that partnership restored Ellis's faith in himself – he never lacked self-confidence but after the Second World War in which he served in the Navy he had trouble resuming his theatrical career until he worked with Herbert – he had after all been a notable songwriter and score-composer in the 1920s and 1930s, to such an extent that the leading critic of the day James Agate, proposing a Ben Travers fare, a musical material observed:

"Messrs Cole Porter and Vivian Ellis should be mobilised and kept without food and drink till they have written 36 more songs."

Vivian Ellis was born into an Edwardian musical family at Hampstead; his mother played the violin every day while she was pregnant in the hope that the new child would be musical, and his grandmother studied with Arthur Sullivan at the Royal Academy of Music under Cipriani Potter, who had known Beethoven, and saw that each of her nine children learned a musical instrument.

Young Vivian, who later became a pupil of Myra Hess, was intended for the concert platform. As a youth he was inspired to begin composing by the sinking of the *Titanic*. "It began with three agonised blasts on the ship's siren and finished up with runny bits as the waves washed over the stricken vessel."

Under his father's will however the youth was put into a bowler hat to join the family business in the City. He loathed it. He preferred Tin Pan Alley. He joined a music publishers, Francis Day and Hunter, in Charing Cross Road where as a song plugger he would play and sing up to a hundred songs a week. "It was bliss."

He wrote numbers for theatrical revues in their heyday between the wars. He wrote for Bobby Howe, Binnie Hale, Jack Hubert and Cicely Courtneidge, Sophie Tucker and Flanagan and Allen. He had a hand in a show dedicated to the impresario André Charlot, a rival of Cochran in an era which often took its plots for musicals from pantomimes.

This brought him at 24 his first triumph, *Mr Cinders* (1929), which reversed the Cinderella legend as a lyrical romance between an impoverished young

and an heiress.

He used to say that what he

meant in a song was melody.

"Witty words are very nice.

They are better with a memorable tune."

Ellis's tunes were abundant testimony to that.

Adam Beauchamp

I first became aware of Vivian Ellis and his music when I was taken as a schoolgirl to *The Fleet's Lit Up* in 1938, writes Elizabeth Forbes.

All I remember of that occasion is that I enjoyed it enormously. Consequently it was a pleasure to meet the composer himself in the early 1940s, when he was a lieutenant in the RNVR and I was a Wren in Plymouth.

He was at the local ironmongers. The BBC traced him. "You're now in the top five," they said. Ellis later invited Sting to lunch at the Garrick. He turned up on a motorcycle without a tie "but luckily I happened to have a very nice one in my pocket," said Ellis.

As a result of the early success of *Mr Cinders* he found himself writing for half a dozen shows in one season in a style which James Agate used to call "the most knavishly witty music imaginable". He wrote for the leading stars of revue and musical comedy, including Jack Buchanan of course, and he wrote so much that a columnist observed: "The single most remarkable thing about Mr Cochran's newly announced review for 1932 is that it will not have music by Vivian Ellis."

It was from one Herbert's poems – "I still miss him for the laughter. Unlike Gilbert and Sullivan we never had a cross word" – that Ellis came up with perhaps his most moving song, "Other People's Babies". "Mother to dozens and nobody's wife."

Ellis wrote most of his *Bless the Bride* songs not at the piano but while gardening. "Gardening has been a great thing for me ever since I used to grow lettuces and sell them to my mother for a penny each."

Retaining his Edwardian manners to the end, Ellis took a serious interest in the work of modern composers and songwriters. The Performing Right Society of which he was made president in 1983 gives the Vivian Ellis prize annually to likely young musicians. "When I was young I couldn't get anyone to listen to me but they do have to learn harmony, orchestration, counterpoint. It's the only way to write show music."

He used to say that what he meant in a song was melody. "Witty words are very nice. They are better with a memorable tune."

Ellis's tunes were abundant testimony to that.

He saw that the song "Spread

bounder and a millionaire's daughter whom he mistakes for the parlour maid.

Its revival at the King's Head, Islington in 1983 transferred to the West End for a long run and a tour; and when Sting sang the song "Spread a Little Happiness" from it as a theme tune for the Dennis Potter feature film *Brimstone and Treacle*, Ellis found himself at the top of the charts.

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He saw that the song "Spread



Proving that an Englishman could write songs as well as anyone else in the world: Ellis in 1938.

Photograph: Hulton Getty

## Martin Taylor



Taylor: love poetry of the trenches

and earned the gratitude of many of the hundreds of academics and members of the general public who research in the museum's library each year.

As General Editor of the Arts and Literature Series, Taylor was responsible for a programme of facsimile reprints from the museum's collection which was intended to illustrate in poetry, fiction and autobiography the individual's response to 20th-century conflicts, and which attracted scholars of the calibre of Jon Silkin and Dominic Headlam as individual editors.

Works by such names as Wilfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg and Vera Brittain were among those reprinted, as well as lesser-known titles, including an account of the death of Rupert Brooke which had a personal significance for Taylor, as his maternal grandfather had been a member of the Hood Battalion.

He was a talented lecturer, who often took part in performances of the war poets, with the actor David Gough, at the museum and at venues like the Voice Box on the South Bank. An insatiable reader, as his maternal grandfather had been a member of the Hood Battalion,

and had been a bearer at Brooke's burial on Skyros.

In 1989 Martin Taylor wrote *Love Poetry of the Trenches*, an anthology of First World War "comradeship" with a lengthy introduction praised by Andrew Motion in the *Observer* as "a model of tactful evocation and historical sensitivity".

Following the work of Paul Fussell in *The Great War And Modern Memory* (1975), Taylor attempted to calibrate the various kinds of feeling aroused in young men in the trenches, from the more ambivalent "homeric" impulses to actual homosexual elements. His anthology testified "to the flowing of an extraordinary emotion, conceived and sustained in the most unlikely of circumstances", and although he conceded that the quality of much of the verse was variable, he concluded that its power was

undeniable and that "the spectacle of men trying to manage almost unmanageable emotions" was a moving one.

For the past few years, Taylor had been working on a biography of the publisher and editor John Lehmann. But as he became increasingly ill he concentrated his efforts on the Blunden edition for which he enjoyed the full co-operation of Blunden's widow, Clare. With almost superhuman single-mindedness, which drew the admiration of everyone who nursed him, he surmounted pain and discomfort to complete this book which will now stand in part as his own memoir.

Mark Bostridge and Peter Parker

Martin Taylor, writer and editor, born Ashington, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 12 June 1957; died London 16 June 1996.

The ocean rower Peter Bird, who died on his fourth attempt at a west-east crossing of the Pacific from Russia to North America, had in recent years become well known for his dogged refusal to give up trying to conquer that route.

He was the first man to row the 9,000 miles across the Pacific single-handed. This east-west voyage, from San Francisco to the Great Barrier Reef, the longest non-stop row ever, was completed in 1983 and took 24 days.

Born 49 years ago in Bromley, Kent, Bird was the third of four children, and left school at 15 without any formal qualifications to work in an advertising agency.

He stumbled into ocean rowing when he had a chance meeting in 1972 with another rower, Derek King, who was planning a trans-world rowing voyage.

The two men completed the first leg of this trip by crossing the Atlantic together in 1974. Although the rest of the voyage was abandoned for various reasons, soon after the trip, thoughts of crossing the Pacific began to dominate Bird's life. He worked at various jobs to finance his attempts on the ocean.

Bird was not the stereotypical ocean-rowing loner. A brave and decent man, he managed somehow to combine a passion for life with an ability to spend months and months alone at sea, without any apparent effect. In the course of his many voyages he rode further than anyone else.

After each voyage, Pete and I would resume our monthly lunches in Wardour Street as though he had just come back from a long weekend on the south coast. He never once, in

the 20 years I knew him, complained his bad luck. The closest he got was a few years back when, after being forced to abandon a voyage, having spent more than 300 days at sea, he commented that it was "a bit of a bugger".

I used to call him "Pacific Pete" and he would always laugh with embarrassment; he was far too modest a man to feel comfortable with such a title.

In recent years I felt his happy family life with Poly and their four-year-old son Louis had dulled his enthusiasm for the task. But he would say simply "I don't know how to do anything else."

Geoff Allum

Peter Bird, rower, born Bromley, Kent 19 February 1947; married (one son); died Pacific Ocean 2 June 1996.

## Reinsurance clause did not set precondition

### LAW REPORT

21 June 1998

The words "actually paid" in the ultimate net loss clause of a reinsurance contract referred to the ultimate outcome of the net loss calculation and did not introduce, as a condition precedent to recovery against the reinsurer, a requirement that the reinsured had already paid out in respect of the relevant losses.

Lord Goff of Chieveley, Sir Michael Rafferty QC, Sir Peter Griffiths, Lord Brown Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffmann (all 22 May 1996)

Lord Goff of Chieveley, Sir Michael Rafferty QC, Sir Peter Griffiths, Lord Brown Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Hoffmann (all 22 May 1996)

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the reinsurers, Patrick Feilirin Fagan and the other members of Lloyd's Syndicates 540 and 542 for the 1989 and 1990 underwriting years of account, against the decision of the Court of Appeal ([1996] 1 All ER 406), affirming that of Mr Justice Mance, that reinsurers, that they were liable under reinsurance contracts with the reinsured, Charter Re Insurance Co Ltd, even though Charter Re was in provisional liquidation and unable to pay its debts.

The contracts provided by clause 2:

(a) The reinsurers shall only be liable if and when the ultimate net loss sustained by the reinsured in respect of interest coming within the scope of the reinsuring clause exceeds

£3m or US \$ or Can\$ each and every loss... arising out of one event and the reinsurers shall therefore become liable for the amount in excess thereof in each and every loss, but their liability hereunder is limited to £3m or US \$ or Can\$ each and every loss...

(c) The term "net loss" shall mean the sum actually paid by the reinsured in respect of losses of liability...

Jonathan Sumption QC, Robert Hilditch QC and Stephen Royle (Innes & Co) for the syndicates; Sir Andrew Langridge QC, Mr Justice Mance, Mr Ian Walker, Mr Andrew Neish (Darties Arnold Cooper) for Charter Re.

Lord Mustill said the syndicates did not for present purposes dispute that all the requirements of a valid claim against them by Charter Re were present, save one: Charter Re had not paid, and could not pay, the claims which they had reinsured. Thus, said the syndicates, Charter Re had no cause of action under the contracts.

The practical importance of this defence, if sound, was obvious; and its implications had been multiplied by the levels of financial frailty experienced in the London insurance market in recent years. Across the market, very large sums depended on it.

The contracts provided by clause 2(a):

(a) The reinsurers shall only be liable if and when the ultimate net loss sustained by the reinsured in respect of interest coming within the scope of the reinsuring clause exceeds

£3m or US \$ or Can\$ each and every loss... arising out of one event and the reinsurers shall therefore become liable for the amount in excess thereof in each and every loss, but their liability hereunder is limited to £3m or US \$ or Can\$ each and every loss...

Charter Re sought a declaration that its own payment under the inward policies was not a condition precedent to the disbursement of funds, but that syndicates argued that the contract wording plainly created a condition precedent to any liability on their part. The condition was that Charter Re should have "actually paid" under the original policy.

In this context "actually" meant "in the event when finally ascertained" and "paid" meant "exposed to liability as a result of the loss insured".

These were far from the ordinary meanings of the words and they might be far from the meanings they would have in other policies particularly first-tier policies of reinsurance. But the courts had been called upon to interpret them in a very specialised form of reinsurance and his Lordship was now satisfied that, as the judge had said, the words in question did not have the purpose of introducing a temporal precondition to recovery in the form of disbursement or other satisfaction of the precise net commitment between Charter Re and its reinsured, but were there "for the purposes of measurement".

Paul Magrath, Barrister

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

**BIRTHS**

MEDD / REALY: To James and Melinda another son, Bertram Luke, born 16 June at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London.

**DEATHS**

WALLBANK: Lilian Emily (née Rhodes), peacefully on Tuesday 18 June, aged 96 years. Widow of Alfred Leonard, a much-loved mother of Roger and the late Angela, and grandmother of James and Alice. Serviced in WINS on 21 June. Interment, Chelmsford Cemetery, Essex.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Deaths, Deaths, Memorials, services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Times,

# Labour on health: an acute case of evasion

**O**n education, Labour has at least shown itself willing to revisit some of the shibboleths of post-war socialism. In health policy, Labour remains the unreconstructed party of reaction. At one level, we know why: the Nye Bevan legacy, Labour's self-image as creator of the welfare state, etcetera, etcetera. On another level, it seems strange; after all, there are probably more teachers among the ranks of Labour activists who are going to be upset by having their methods challenged than there are nurses, or doctors, or even administrators who may be perturbed to hear that Labour wants to adopt challenging health policies.

Against that background, not a great deal was to be expected of Tony Blair's keynote speech on health yesterday. In the event, even less was offered. Labour's received wisdom says that it must never be seen to tamper with the good old NHS, because voters believe the NHS is the one thing Labour can be better trusted to maintain than the Tories. But how wise is Mr Blair's failure to rethink the party's stance on health?

Partly, he is presumably anticipating political advantage as the NHS undergoes an acute funding episode this autumn and winter. But professionally, organisationally and morally the health service is in remarkably fine fettle. To suggest otherwise, as Labour may well do, is to play into the hands of those merchants of social policy apocalypse who

are willing us into a crisis that does not and need not exist if everyone keeps their heads. Mr Blair's electioneering promises about "ending the scandal of the trolleys" is evasion. He is ducking an opportunity to offer a radical alternative at a moment when power beckons.

Public health provision in the UK does not require any more dogma about management and administration. The gravest charge against Tory social policy during the past decade has been its know-all attitude about systems, leading to a fatal unwillingness to experiment, assess, and proceed on the basis of what works. Example: the Audit Commission stated in its recent report on fundholding that some GPs in some circumstances were using the system of "purchasing" care for their patients well. In other areas, we need what Labour advocates: a closer and more co-operative relationship between the GP and the health authority than the theory of GP fundholding ever allowed. So let us agree to use whichever form of administration works best for the particular circumstance.

In one area only Mr Blair had a strong rhetorical point to make: in an uncertain world, where jobs come and go and lifetime incomes are by no means assured, people need anchors. One of them, he argued, has to be a guarantee that if they get ill, they will be treated. The NHS is, from that perspective, a foundation stone of civil society. True. One of Thatcherite Conservatism's greatest omissions was its failure to see



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splitting purchasers from providers of care. Labour's claim that by reducing bureaucracy it will be able to release a golden stream of money for acute care needs to be taken with a pinch of salt.

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that a public health service is a buttress to the successful operation of the market in other areas. Collective health provision and competitive capitalism, far from being contradictions, serve mutually to support each other, the one by providing healthy employees and secure families, the other by providing the resources to pay for the first.

But Mr Blair knows how little the rhetoric gainsays the nitty-gritty annual budget round in which the Health Secretary will always be demanding more. He said nothing about fixing health spending as a proportion of GDP, or any of the other ways in which health

spending might be contained. If Labour in power fails to address the problem, it will face the same trade-offs as all its predecessors. Health demand is a function of rising expectations, improvements in technology, and an information economy in which patients are quickly alerted to new treatments, new options. Health supply rests largely on the doctors. At the intersection, politics plays an acute role, as in such celebrated causes as Jennifer's Ear and Jaymee Bowen's leukaemia.

On the back of this question, the rationing cry has gone up. Yet choice among patients and treatments is endemic in all health provision, insurance-based systems included. The real question is whether the public trusts the triage process. Here Labour is potentially an enemy of the public good. It may suit Mr Blair, not least in this pre-election period, to inflame public mistrust, to identify gaps in supply and highlight disappointments in expectation. If anything, the Child B case showed that consensual case management works. Every day, in a thousand decentralised ways, patients and their doctors agree on the costs and benefits of this or that procedure.

Labour should be saying that rationing is uncontroversial in most day-to-day instances, so long as it is based on public support for individual doctors and the management systems in which they work. In recent years patients

have been told that they are consumers with rights. They are also citizens with common obligations who own their health service. That sense of ownership, neglected under the Conservatives, gives Labour its political opportunity. Labour should deny itself the cheap thrill of exaggerated attacks on the Tory health record, and instead explain precisely how it will manage these difficult choices more effectively.

## A little axeman in all of us

**W**hoops – there goes the Planet. A new Sunday paper was born and died this weekend. It was an owner's wrath that scuppered the *Planet on Sunday*. Lesser moguls tend to batter editors when they disapprove of the newspapers' content. Clifford Hards preferred to shut the entire project.

But there is a little Clifford Hards in all of us. Many people dream of suddenly snuffing out an entire institution. Imagine putting paid to the Millennium Commission, Hackney Council, all Clwyd children's homes, the Spanish football team, the English cricket team, British Gas and Yorkshire Water, Bill Cash's European Foundation and the Royal Society. What a shame the rest of us so rarely get the chance.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Mad rash of hoardings in the country

Sir: Will Bennett's article ("Countryside under threat from advertising clutter" (19 June)) rightly highlights the concern shared by both conservation groups and rural communities at the Government's proposals to relax controls on advertising.

These plans can only mean one thing: an increase in advertising in the countryside, particularly hitting many of the most outstanding areas of natural beauty in the country. Moreover, they will reduce trade for local businesses if, by blighting the countryside, they deter visitors. As Mr Bennett points out, no one who has seen the ugly roadside in the United States will want the same thing to happen in the UK. The public do not wish to see the unrivalled beauty of our countryside afflicted by a rash of advertising hoardings. The sooner the Government withdraws this crazy proposal, the better.

MATTHEW TAYLOR MP  
(Tiverton and St Austell)  
Liberal Democrat Environment Spokesperson  
House of Commons  
London SW1

Sir: I was appointed by the Department of the Environment as consultant to undertake a study of Areas of Special Control of Advertisements (ASCA) which is now the subject of a consultation paper by the DoE. Our recommendation to abandon the system was based on the fact that we established that it is not working well and there are in any event measures available to local authorities to control unacceptable advertisements in attractive rural areas.

It concerns me that a picture is being painted of a situation where the British countryside could be transformed more or less overnight into something akin to what one would find in France or the United States, with hoardings erected end-to-end along major routes. Such a scenario is very unlikely.

There are already many parts of the countryside that are not protected by an ASCA designation and yet there is not a hoarding to be found. Any advertiser would have to obtain consent from the local authority, and councils are guided by government guidance which conveys the message that there is no place for hoardings within rural areas.

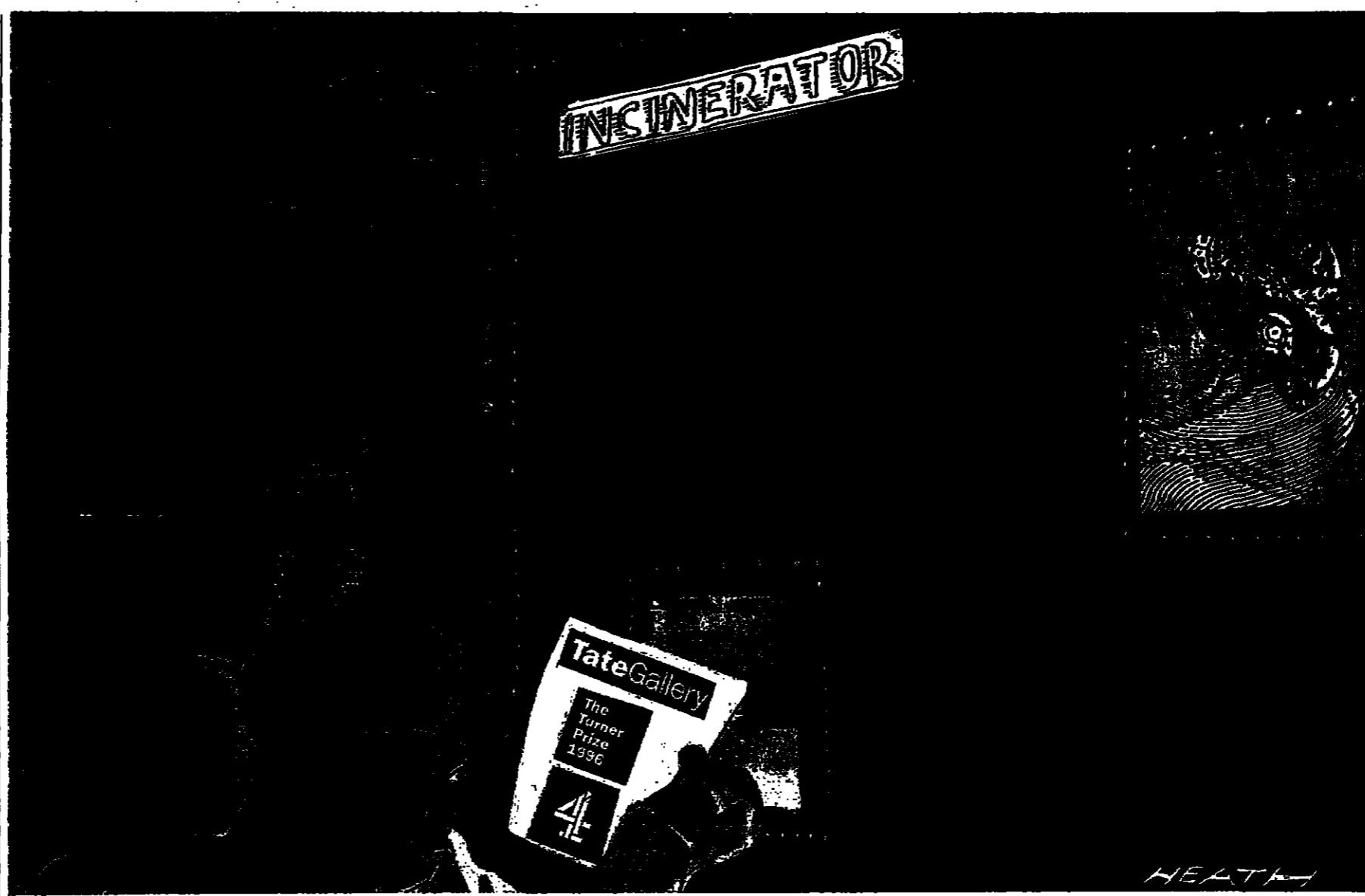
The planning system in other countries is not the same as in Britain and may not therefore have the means to control advertisements in the same way as we do.

I suggest that poster companies should be consulted on this issue before the panic sets in to see whether in fact they would wish to site hoardings in rural areas. They are much more interested in the conurbations, where they can guarantee high levels of people passing their sites on a daily basis.

S A HUGHES  
Susan Hughes and Associates  
Knutsford, Cheshire

Sir: Apart from the aesthetic objections to a proliferation of roadside advertisements, is it not likely, by diverting motorists' attention, to lead to more accidents?

H G BEST  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent



Struth! We've been shortlisted for the Turner Prize!

### Rebellion at the birth of Ulster

Sir: While it may be politically expedient and emotionally satisfying to condemn the IRA, it in no way helps the British to understand why there is so much tacit support for them in Northern Ireland.

So Northern Ireland was created and elections rigged to guarantee a favourable result for the British.

PETER DALLY  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: At the heart of the impasse over the Northern Ireland peace process is the idea that peace can ultimately be reached by a majority decision. A minority on either side may not accept the majority.

There is, however, an alternative. It is possible to allow each individual living in Northern Ireland the right to make a personal decision as to which government they owe their allegiance. This would require dual (not joint) political, judicial and administrative structures in the North, operated by the British and the Irish governments. Residents of the province would be subject to the laws of the state of their choice.

No one would have grounds to complain that a state they had rejected was being imposed upon them.

A system based on individual choice would certainly be anomalous to the abstract concept of a state holding sole jurisdiction over a given territory, but this does not mean that it would be unworkable. In reality, people living alongside one another are often subject to different rules and sanctions – not least in the Catholic

Nationalists would reduce our majority to such a level that no sane man would undertake to carry on a Parliament with it ... we quite frankly admit that we cannot hold the nine counties."

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### Domestic violence outside marriage

Sir: In the fuss about the concessions that have been dragged from the Government on the Family Law Bill, their continued opposition to proposals for dealing with domestic violence among cohabiting couples has gone almost unnoticed.

The proposals that I put to Parliament on 17 June would have given equal rights to couples legally recognised as living together regardless of their marital status.

By rejecting these proposals, the Government has enshrined in law that it is somehow more acceptable for a man living with a woman in a long-term relationship outside marriage to inflict violence upon her than if he is married to her. Far from supporting marriage, this could encourage men to think they can get away with this sort of behaviour by not getting married.

I suspect that a major factor in the defeat of the amendment was general ignorance that cohabiting couples already have a legal status, in social security law for example.

In the mistaken belief that the

proposal would have allowed live-

in lovers to evict their partners

from their homes after a few weeks

of shacking up together, I am afraid we have voted to inflict greater

hardship on those many people

experiencing violence in long-term

common-law relationships.

DIANA MADDOCK MP  
(Christiansburg, Lib Dem)

House of Commons  
London SW1

### US Equity snubs the theatre

Sir: It is difficult to understand American Equity's decision not to allow Michael Gambon to appear on Broadway in David Hare's play *Skylight* (report, 19 June). In saying that Gambon has not sufficient US star status (or audience pull-power) they seem to be concerned for the investors' pockets rather than the actor's chance to establish that status. I thought it was Equity's job to help actors.

Michael Gambon is an outstanding and hugely experienced stage actor. Can it be that big- or small-screen fame is now the only measure of a performer's worth? This decision seems to support that mercifully and theatrically debilitating view.

CLIVE SWIFT  
London NW3

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# Could this mean the mincer for Major?

The Florence meeting today will decide more than the future of British beef, says Paddy Ashdown

**J**ohn Major has decided that the best way out of the problems in his own party is to declare war on Europe. Diverting opponents at home by finding enemies abroad is an age-old tactic of leaders. But in the end, there is always a reckoning. Mr Major's comes at Florence today and tomorrow, when the European Commission puts forward its outline proposals for ending the beef ban.

There are huge gaps in the Commission's outline. When is the start date of the slaughter programme? What is the phasing? Are more cows to be brought in? Are there binding reassurances from our partners for lifting the ban? And, crucially, how are farmers to be compensated?

The summit will answer these questions, and the Prime Minister will have to decide whether or not he agrees with the answers. So by tomorrow evening, we will be able to see the final deal and judge whether what the Europeans have dubbed "the war of Mr Major's mince" has been worth the fight.

There are three possible outcomes:

**Outcome 1. Beef in our time**  
Mr Major returns from Florence waving a piece of paper. He declares this a brilliant and decisive victory. The paper contains an agreement, agreed

by our partners, which is binding, fills the gaps to Britain's satisfaction, provides for the phased lifting of the beef ban at specified dates and enacts a package of measures that will convince the citizens of Europe that British beef is safe to eat. This was what Mr Major said he wanted when he suddenly launched his policy of confrontation on 21 May.

Since then, however, the Government has been busy moving the goal posts. And understandably so. For the policy of confrontation has been entirely counter-productive, hardening attitudes to Britain's case and making it more difficult for our friends to help us get out of this mess.

It is now quite clear that there is nothing that will emerge from Florence as a result of this policy, which could not have been much more easily achieved without it – and without the damage it has caused to Britain's respect abroad, to our influence in the future and to our agricultural industry at home. Indeed, it may well be that even more healthy cows will have to be sacrificed because of the delays and confusion caused by Mr Major's destructive tactics.

But the Europeans know that this goes much further than cows. If confrontation wins over co-operation this

time it will be tried again – and not just by Britain – in the future.

Which is why "beef in our time" is the least likely outcome of Florence.

**Outcome 2. C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas le boeuf!**

Mr Major returns from Florence with a fudge. He declares this a brilliant and decisive victory. The package is, broadly, what the Commission has

## Major's policy of confrontation has been entirely counter-productive

now proposed. Britain kills lots more cows, perhaps 70,000 more. But we obtain in return only a vague framework stretching into the blue distance of an indeterminate future. Nothing is binding, no firm steps are required by our partners abroad, but every step we take in Britain must be inspected and validated by the Commission.

The Euro-sceptics, who know they have Mr Major's head in a noose, will probably riot. And farmers, who know

that this deal will do real long-term damage to Britain's milk industry without getting anything bankable in return, may well do the same. The combination could be deadly to the Government's majority in the House of Commons.

**Outcome 3. The long slow humiliating retreat of our beef expeditionary force from Europe**

Mr Major returns from Florence without any agreement. He declares this a brilliant and decisive victory. The policy of non-co-operation then drags on and on with Britain looking more and more ridiculous, opposing the things we want and have been fighting for in Europe. Meanwhile, under cover of a government propaganda barrage, we are, in reality, bearing a disorderly and miserable retreat that ends with Mr Major, on the white cliffs of Dover, saying, "Very well then, alone" and calling a general election.

I can think of no better epitaph for this Government than that it should be brought down by mad cows. But the real damage being done to Britain is not funny at all and extends well beyond cows.

The BSE affair is being viewed by our European partners as a watershed. Until now they were prepared to

spend time and energy to achieve compromises that kept Britain on board. Now they are talking of "giving up on Britain" and of "building a four-lane bypass" around the British road block to the forthcoming Inter-Governmental Conference. They quote Mr Major's Leiden speech of September 1994, in which he said that it was "perfectly healthy for all member states to agree that some should integrate more closely and more quickly in certain areas" and his many statements since that if others wanted to do this, Britain wouldn't. Many Europeans have concluded that it is now time to take those sentiments at face value and put the proposition to the test.

There are even secret conclaves of Brussels lawyers discussing dividing the Commission in two, with one part serving a core Europe of the strong countries and the other looking after the outer ring of Europe's weaker countries, those new democracies making their way towards Europe's core – and, of course, Britain.

This is why, in the short term, Florence could decide Mr Major's future. In the long term, it could decide Britain's, too.

The writer is Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party:

# Beware false comfort for heterosexuals

**T**om Wilkie warns against those who preach that the HIV virus is not a danger for us all

**L**et us now praise Norman Fowler. Alone among Margaret Thatcher's cabinet ministers Lord Fowler, as he is now, saved thousands if not tens of thousands, of British lives.

For when he was Secretary of State for Health, Lord Fowler had the political courage to listen to and act upon the advice of his Chief Medical Officer, Donald Acheson. Sir Donald had warned that if the Government did not act, the country faced an epidemic of the new, incurable and fatal disease Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids). The problem was that any action would involve the British Government talking frankly about sex.

Although the official safe sex campaigns were criticised at the time, the fact remains that the British Government acted earlier and more wisely than most other Western countries. About 9,000 Britons have died of the disease whereas in the United States, with just four times our population level, and more than 318,000 Americans have died. In France, Italy and Spain, where no coherent public health messages were disseminated, the incidence of new Aids cases is running at up to four times the British rate.

The projected British Aids epidemic failed to materialise in part because of social factors – Britons are more boringly monogamous than anyone had believed possible – and in part because of the Government's safe sex campaign.

But, by a logic that defeats rational dissection, the very success of the safe sex campaign has now been transmuted into evidence that it was never needed at all. Yesterday, the *Daily Mail* launched a broadside against the Aids lobby which had foisted the "myth" of heterosexual Aids upon an innocent and unsuspecting British population at great cost to the taxpayer.

On Monday of next week, Neville Hodgkinson, the former science correspondent of the *Sunday Times*, publishes a densely written book *Aids – the failure of contemporary science* (Fourth Estate), which tries to justify the bizarre thesis he first propounded in the pages of the *Sunday Times*, that HIV is not responsible for Aids.

He argues, in the face of all scientific evidence, that HIV, if it exists at all, is but a harmless

Globally, in 1996, Aids is a disease of heterosexuals

5,000 gay men have died from Aids in Britain and more than 200,000 in the US.

If there is any consolation or

comfort to be gained from this tragic waste of human life, these men did not die in vain, in so far as their deaths have acted as a global early-warning signal. A touching analogy is with the delicate canaries that coal-miners used to take with them down the pit, because these fragile birds were more exquisitely sensitive to danger than the miners themselves.

There are signs, however, that the signals are not being heard. In Britain today, there are more than 7,000 men and women who have been infected with HIV through heterosexual intercourse. Some of them got infected abroad, through holiday romances or casual encounters on business trips.

The infection rate among gays is falling, but that among heterosexuals is rising. By the end of the century, according to the official estimates, there will be about 1,200 new cases of Aids among British gays and about 525 among heterosexuals.

Every case of Aids is an individual tragedy, but that the absolute numbers are so small is a cause to rejoice not to curse the money that was so well spent in the past.

# Amis's paternal triangle

How does it feel to discover you have a secret and famous father?

Jack O'Sullivan investigates

**T**here is an old wives' tale that babies bear, for their first year, a striking resemblance to their fathers – nature's way of cementing the paternal bond, of winning over a man, who may be tempted to desert his offspring. But in Delilah Seale's case the similarity has persisted. At 20, she has her father's forehead, his blond hair, his fine features. Her physical appearance is a constant reminder of a secret, just made public: Delilah is the biological daughter not of Patrick Seale, the man who raised her, but of Martin Amis, the novelist.

For two decades, both men kept their counsel. They saw each other across a room at parties from time to time, but never spoke of Delilah. Amis made no contact with his child, conceived during a brief but passionate affair with the Seventies author and beauty, Lamorna Heath. Her husband, the author and Middle East specialist, Patrick Seale, knew of the affair, which took place during a short separation. But he set it aside, the couple were reunited and he put his name on Delilah's birth certificate. Seale brought her up on his own, after his wife, a depressive, committed suicide when the child was two.

Now, the truth is out, following Seale's decision last year to tell Delilah about her natural father, whom she now meets regularly. "It was obviously a rather shattering experience for Delilah," says Seale, "but it has been as untraumatic as could be hoped. It has helped that Delilah, herself and her brother have such a strong relationship and that my relationship with Martin has been amicable."

Shattering certainly. Imagine discovering that not only is your natural father the arrogant and grumpy Amis, but that grandad was the irascible and even grumpier Sir Kingsley Amis. The younger has a dark personality that dwells on the sinister. He may be a great writer, but he is often accused of failing ever to construct a sympathetic

female character. Even now, at 46, he is unsettled: he divorced his wife, Antonia Phillips, a fortnight ago.

Seale is, however, generous in his admiration of Amis staying silent for so long. "For many years I forgot the whole thing. She was my daughter and still is. There is just this rather interesting aspect to her life, which is rewarding and enriching. Knowing the truth has given her another dimension and helped her understand herself more profoundly. I felt I owed it to her that she should be told when she reached adulthood."

An affable, kindly man, Seale managed heroically, a little like Sylvia Plath's husband Ted Hughes, when he was left with two toddlers after their mother killed herself.

"I was present at Delilah's birth. She was absolutely adorable. It didn't seem a big deal to accept her as my child. In modern marriages today, lots and lots of people are bringing up other people's children. Perhaps it was easier for me because she was white and good looking. The fact that she looks so like her brother helped. Martin's absence also probably made it easier for me to feel that Delilah was my own. After Lamorna's death, it never crossed my mind to let her go."

All of this sounds like an extraordinary story. But it is less unusual than you might think. Literary and artistic figures are famously prolific in more than their craft. Byron fathered a child with a maid at Newstead Abbey, his ancestral home, and several others on the wrong side of the sheet. Robbie Burns is said to have had a sake of illegitimate children, the number probably exaggerated by his Scottish admirers. Augustus John remarked that he never walked down Maida Vale without putting a child's head, perchance he was its father.

Not surprisingly, the revelation of hidden parenthood has been a recurring theme in drama from Shakespearean comedy to the discovery of



Twist in the tale: Amis, his daughter Delilah, Patrick Seale, the man who raised her, and her mother Lamorna

Kathy's daughter in *EastEnders* and Jack's realisation in *The Importance of Being Earnest* that Lady Bracknell is, in fact, his mother. *Habes Corpus*, Alan Bennett's West End play, and Mike Leigh's recent film, *Secrets and Lies*, all revolve around finding one's true parents.

Drama reflects fantasy. Which child

has not dreamed at some point that his real parents were really not the dull, suburban types fate imposed? "Children often imagine that one day they will find parents who are more famous, richer, more loving than the parents they have," says Robin Skynner, the

child psychiatrist and co-author with John Cleese of *Families and How to Survive Them*.

Martin Amis may not be Delilah's

dream come true, but the arrival of

Britain's most celebrated novelist into her life must still seem like something of a fantasy. Now a history student in Oxford, she has gone off adventuring in Latin America, no doubt to chew over the whole idea.

What hope then for the rest of us swapping parents and finding a rich and famous daddy? Less unlikely than you might think. Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics at University

College, London claims in his book, *The Language of Genes*, that "in middle-class society, about one birth in 20" is of a child that has not been sired by their mother's partner. British medical students are taught that the non-paternity rate is even higher: 10-15 per cent.

The lesson of all this is twofold. If a strange man puts you on the head as you are walking down the street, take a good look at him for any familiar features. And, clearly, Shakespeare's warning remains true today: "It is a wise father that knows his own child."

## Neither a boom nor a blip, but a new world

Conflicting signs about the state of the economy are misleading. In fact, the very ground has shifted

with encouraging data not just in the official figures but from groups like the John Lewis Partnership, which produces week-by-week sales figures. Consumer spending, a wider measure than retail sales, is certainly rising: it was up more than 3 per cent last year against a rise of 1.5 per cent on goods. Unemployment is coming down, even allowing for flaws in the way those figures are collected, and the number of notified vacancies is rising. Add in the boost to people's wealth from such things as the conversion by building societies to public limited company status, and most of the building blocks of a boom seem in place.

But against this there is another block of data which points to an economy that is struggling. May retail sales, published on Wednesday, showed a fall. Manufacturing is technically in recession, with output having fallen for two successive quarters, although it is still up on the level of a year ago. If you look at employment, not unemployment, that too fell in the first quarter of this year.

So there is a puzzle here. The new OECD half-yearly forecast, published yesterday, expects the British economy to grow by 2.2 per cent this year, com-

fusing. One is the near-elimination of inflation. We are used to the idea that we become richer by earning sufficiently more money to more than compensate for inflation. But we are now moving towards a world where, in many areas, higher living standards come from lower prices, not higher wages. Prices of virtually all electronic goods fall by the month. Transport costs are falling, for there are new cheap airfares to Scotland and the Netherlands, and cheaper rail fares to Paris and Brussels. Telephone charges are falling; so are household fuel bills. Even where charges are not falling, quality is improving: a Ford Fiesta now is better than a Ford Fiesta of 10 years ago. This sort of advance was familiar to our Victorian ancestors, but we are not used to it, so we fail to see that our real income is rising.

The second shift is from manufacturing to services, the shift from spending on physical goods to spending on intangibles such as information or entertainment. For example, in 1980 US consumers spent half as much on information as they spent on food; by 1992 it was three-quarters; now the two are probably almost equal. A similar pattern is surely happening here,

but – and this is the important bit – different types of spending show up in different ways. We are spending a lot more on travel, self-evidently on the roads and in the air, but none of that shows in the shops. If we make more mobile phone calls, again, no benefit to the high street. So living standards rise, but the rise feels different to the way we experienced in the 1980s.

Third, the rise in insecurity, real or perceived, means that we feel we have to spend more on some things even if we would prefer not to. Take job insecurity: the statistics may say that there has been no real change since the 1980s, but the fact that people feel more insecure will mean that they will seek to save more, maybe buy more insurance, or put more into a pension plan.

And there lies the answer. These

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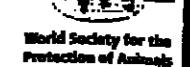
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# 20 business

THE INDEPENDENT • Friday 21 June 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

## Strong lending heralds end of five-year housing slump

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

The clearest evidence yet that the housing market is back on its feet and dusting off the last traces of a five-year slump was provided yesterday by a surge in mortgage lending last month.

Other lending, to consumers and industry, also remained buoyant in May. A separate survey by the Confederation of British Industry indicated that, even in manufacturing, there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

High street banks and building societies reported a strong increase in net mortgage lending during the month - up 22 per cent to £695m in the case of the banks and 26 per cent higher at £1.1bn for the building societies.

Even more encouraging was a rise in the number of new loans approved by the building societies to 48,000, highest since No-

vember 1994. Figures for the number of housing transactions, due from the Inland Revenue today, are also expected to show an increase in May.

Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "Many of the fac-

tors for recovery, such as improving employment and the reduction in taxation, have been in place for some time, and the lending figures are beginning to show the results of."

The House Builders Federation brought more cheer, saying

that 53 per cent of members surveyed had reported an increase in reservations for new homes. More than two-thirds were confident that sales would improve.

The pick-up in mortgage lending was accompanied by strong bank lending all round.

The British Bankers' Association said consumer lending remained above the recent monthly average at £382m but well below April's record.

The company sector also borrowed significantly more in May after a repayment in April.

The total rise in borrowing last month was £5.8bn compared with £4.2bn in April.

Growth of the broad money supply measure M4, whose rapid expansion has caused concern at the Bank of England, remained at 10 per cent in May

rather than falling as expected. Although manufacturing industry remains sluggish, according to the CBI's latest monthly survey, it reports hopeful signs in a new survey today.

Fewer firms than last month are expecting output to fall

### OECD forecasts

	1995	1996
US	2.1	2.2
Japan	-0.8	0.8
Germany	1.5	1.3
UK	2.5	2.5
OECD total	1.9	1.9

\*excluding Mexico and Italy

per cent, adjusting for the stage of the business cycle. It puts the French government deficit rate at 3.7 per cent of GDP.

On the brighter side, the OECD says most member countries have come close to achieving price stability. It forecasts continued growth in the US and a firmer recovery in Japan.

The report says "judicious" monetary easing is required on the Continent, especially as budget cuts get under way.

rather than rise. The negative balance has improved to minus 1.7 per cent in May. Although export orders tumbled to their lowest since February 1994, domestic orders improved.

"The revival in the home market has helped to offset the fall in exports," said Sudhir Jauhar of the CBI, although he pointed out that firms had become less optimistic about output in the next four months.

In addition, manufacturers have run down their excess stocks of finished goods this month. The balance reporting more than adequate stocks shrank from 25 per cent in May to 17 per cent in June.

Some economists now predict a rebound in manufacturing once stock levels are back to normal. "Manufacturing output is likely to recover quite quickly," Michael Saunders at Salomon Brothers said.

## Think-tank claims UK economy will grow fastest

The British economy will grow faster than its main European neighbours for the next two years, according to an authoritative forecast published today, writes Diane Coyle.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has revised up its outlook for the UK in its half-year forecasts for member economies, only a few weeks after downgrading it. It predicts growth of 2.2 per cent this year and 3 per cent next.

However, a recovery in growth in the rest of Europe later this year will not be strong enough for Germany and France to qualify for the single currency on time, according to the OECD.

In contrast to the European Commission's recent optimism that the two key countries could scrape below the Maastricht Treaty ceiling for government deficits as a proportion of GDP in 1997, the Paris-based think-tank predicts that only Denmark

pressing problem facing OECD countries, says the report.

Current fiscal policies are unsustainable, it argues, but the OECD is very upbeat about the short-term economic outlook. The next two years will bring sustainable growth, with a recovery on the Continent and in Japan, and low inflation.

The OECD predicts the German deficit will decline to 3.6 per cent of GDP in 1997, although it notes that this would deliver all the spending cuts they have promised.

Restoring the health of public sector finances is the most

## Scottish wins Southern Water with £1.6bn bid

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Southern Electric threw in the towel yesterday in its attempt to win control of Southern Water when it was knocked out by an audacious counter-bid from ScottishPower. The Southern Water board are expected to recommend the Scots' £1.63bn offer later today.

ScottishPower finally won the day after tabling an unusual two-tier offer that effectively priced its southern rival out of the developing auction. Topping Southern Electric's recent 975p offer, the Scottish company made a final bid of 1,030p but retained the right to increase its offer to 1,100p if Southern or any other party returned with a higher offer.

Southern Electric indicated early in the day that it believed ScottishPower was overpaying for the south coast water company. Henry Casley, chief executive, said: "We are not prepared to overpay. Our offer was a full and fair price and most reasonable people will assume that, with a customer overlap, we can produce more savings than Scottish."

Attention focused on Southern Electric's future as an independent company following its repeated failure to expand its activities over the past two years. Having agreed to a takeover by National Power earlier this year, only to see that deal blocked by the Government, it is widely expected to be the subject of another takeover bid as the electricity industry continues to consolidate.

ScottishPower insisted that the takeover would result in immediate and substantial enhancement of earnings per share and an increase in the rate of dividend growth. Murray Stuart, chairman, said: "We are a builder of businesses and have a clearly focused strategy. Our highly successful integration of Manweb proves that our management team has the expertise to reduce costs, improve efficiency and grow revenues."

ScottishPower promised there would be no compulsory redundancies at Southern Water, as there had not been following last year's hostile takeover of Manweb, the north-west regional electricity supplier, but it insisted that the deal offered substantial cost savings.

It has already announced planned cost cuts of about £26m from the Manweb deal and, while the savings are likely to be more modest at Southern, analysts expect reductions of between £40m and £45m.

Any takeover still has to receive regulatory clearance from the Office of Fair Trading but a referral is thought unlikely. The deal would not appear to compromise competition in the Southern region and there would not seem to be concerns about ScottishPower's financial strength following the deal and, therefore, about its ability to meet its obligations to customers.

Following the acquisition, which is to be part funded by a rights issue, to raise £589m, ScottishPower will have gearing of 125 per cent, a figure which is expected to fall subsequently. Interest cover is considered safe at more than four times.

The move is ScottishPower's latest step in a rapid expansion both geographically and into other utility areas, where it holds the field in the creation of so-called multiutilities. It now has interests spanning electricity, gas, telecoms and water and has created footholds in north-



High hopes for a multi-utility: Ian Robison, ScottishPower's chief executive (left), and Ian Russell, finance director

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

## Oakland sale signals Facia group demise

NIGEL COPE

The Torq jewellery chain is the only part of the collapsed Facia group to remain in receivership after Oakland Menswear was sold yesterday. The buyer was Ciro Citterio Menswear which has acquired 27 of the 31 stores for an undisclosed sum in a deal that saves 140 jobs.

Administrative receiver Tony Thompson is still seeking a buyer for the other four shops in Richmond, Kingston-upon-Thames, Peterborough and Oxford Street.

"We hope to sell the remaining stores as individual concerns, and discussions are still continuing with interested parties," said Mr Thompson.

Facia, which was Britain's second-largest privately owned retailer, was put into receivership on 1 June with debts of around £50m. Since then, there has been a steady stream of deals securing the group's parts.

The major sales of the re-

ceivership are now concluded," Mr Thompson said.

The only large part of the group still awaiting sale is the Torq chain.

"We are in advanced negotiations with purchasers who have expressed interest in various parts of the chain. It is unlikely that the chain will be sold as a whole, but we do hope to have sold all the stores soon," the receiver said.

Price Waterhouse is overseeing the sale of Freeman Hardy Willis, Saxon, Mansfield and Curteis, Facia's former shoe chain which are still in administration.

The Sock Shop chain has already been sold to the Jumper retail group, while the Red or Dead design group has been sold back to its founders Wayne and Geradine Hemmingsway.

Contessa, the lingerie chain was acquired by Chancerealm, controlled by Theo Phaphuthe. Mr Phaphuthe had previously acquired the Ryman's chain of stationery shops.

## Tokyo steps up search for 'Fishy Nishi'

NIC CICUTTI and RICHARD LLOYD PARRY Tokyo

The net was closing in yesterday on Shinichi "Fishy" Nishi, the Japanese trader whom investigators want to interview about links with Yasuo Hamanaka, the Sumitomo Corporation copper trader whose losses cost his company £1.2bn.

Mr Nishi, operating through his company Winchester Metals (Tokyo), is said to have been involved with Mr Hamanaka in a series of copper trading activities.

It remains unclear whether Winchester Metals is the same company as the one sold for £65,000 by the UK copper trading firm Winchester Commodities in June 1993.

Winchester Commodities had previously been investigated,

and cleared, by the Securities and Futures Authority for its own activities linked to copper trading.

A Winchester Commodities spokesman said the identity of the purchaser of 90 per cent of the interest in its Tokyo subsidiary had never been revealed.

One Winchester Metals employee, who would not be named, confirmed yesterday that Mr Nishi had owned "most" of the business for several years.

Operating through Winchester Metals, Mr Nishi was named

by David Threlkeld, the metal dealer and whistleblower, as the person to whom he was asked to confirm non-existent trades with Sumitomo in October 1991.

Mr Threlkeld sold his own

Tokyo business to Mr Nishi for \$80,000 (£50,000) in June 1992.

Mr Nishi, said by Mr Threlkeld to be a former Merrill Lynch employee, is likely to face questioning by financial investigators over his dealings with Mr Hamanaka.

## Blame the boss's 'presentee-ism' for stress

ROGER TRAPP

Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England, will leave work before 6pm today. If Parents at Work, the charity of which he is patron, has put over the message of its first National Go Home on Time Day effectively, he will not be alone.

Coming on a Friday in the middle of summer, longest day of the year, the idea is bound to

have a certain appeal. Hill & Knowlton, the City PR firm acting for PPP Healthcare, which is backing Parents at Work's initiative, presumably will not be the only organisation encouraging its staff away from their desks.

It will be joined by, among others, J Sainsbury, British Airways, Whitbread and MFI. But, while some banks have signed up, City firms have generally

greeted the idea with derision.

In some jobs – and dealing in shares and commodities is among them – a great deal of work must be done daily. Staff reductions brought about by recession and the belief that competition is getting ever more intense have increased the pressure on those in many professional roles, particularly middle management.

According to Cary Cooper,

professor of organisational psychology at the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, it is common for bosses to include a culture of "presentee-ism" by working ever longer hours.

Surveys confirm that British white-collar workers spend far longer in their offices than Continental counterparts, and suffer far more stress.

Living, page 4 Section 2

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STOCK MARKETS					
FTSE 100	3727.50	-25.70	-0.7	3857.10	3632.50 4.09
Dow Jones*	5780	-	-	5720	-
Nikkei	22000	-	-	21800	-
FTSE 250	1885.60	-10.50	-0.6	1845.40	1816.80 3.93
FT Small Cap	2235.83	-0.37	-0.0	2244.38	1854.06 2.91
FT All Share	1873.67	-9.69	-0.5	1924.17	1701.95 3.85
New York*	5645.74	+0.37	+0.0	5718.00	5528.24 4.09
Tokyo	22437.30	+69.94	+0.3	22437.30	19724.70 0.71†
Hong Kong	10504.47	+0	+0.0	11694.98	10204.87 3.38†
Frankfurt	2539.67	-14.62	-0.6	2570.78	2253.36 1.94†

\*From London Stock Exchange. Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES					



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## COMMENT

'For once the bankers earned their crust, and it would be surprising if this sort of conditional bid did not become a regular feature of contested takeovers'

## A clever ruse wins the day in the water battle

However ridiculous and ill-judged the creation of these so-called multi-utility companies, it is hard not to admire the panache with which ScottishPower knocked Southern Electric out of the auction for Southern Water. What is really surprising is that the ruse Barings devised to ensure victory has not been thought of before.

By offering a firm 1,050p a share for Water, but promising to come back with up to 1,100p if Electric or anyone else had the audacity to make a counter-bid, Scottish cleverly derived all the benefit of high knock-out offer without actually having to stump up the £75m it would have cost.

Electric took to the phones yesterday to ridicule the high price Scottish was paying for its new southern customer base, but the fact of the matter is it was outmanoeuvred. For once the bankers earned their crust, and it would be surprising if this sort of conditional bid did not become a regular feature of contested takeovers.

Clever as it is, however, it does put Southern Water's board in an interesting position this morning as it sits down with Scottish to discuss recommending the offer. Having recommended Electric's 975p offer already, directors must on the face of it back the higher Scottish offer.

But can they honestly put their names to a 1,050p bid when the bidder has said in the same breath it is prepared to pay 1,100p? It must be their duty to tell shareholders to do nothing until the end of the bid timetable to give

a third party the opportunity at least of proving the promised higher offer.

With payoffs at stake, there won't be much support on the board for undue boat-rocking and it is clear that Scottish has won the day in some style. The Scottish power company's thinly disguised exercise in empire building will take another giant step forward. Whether the deal can be made to add up for shareholders, customers and employees remains to be seen. The only precedents, United Utilities in the north-west and Hyder in Wales, are too young to provide any sensible guide.

By pandering to the regulators' desire to see at least some of the benefit of the inevitable spate of mergers passed on to customers through lower bills, Scottish should avoid a reference and the deal should be good as done. It is too early to say, however, whether Southern Water shareholders, with their 50 per cent premium, or ScottishPower, with its new customers, will have the last laugh. The palpable relief that sent Southern Electric's shares higher yesterday was a telling reminder that victories are often pyrrhic.

### Clarke could manage one more rate cut

The ultimate weather-vane for the winds of monetary policy must be Liffe's short sterling futures market, where traders in loud jackets and white socks bet on the future path

of base rates. Their money is on increases from now on, with a base rate of 6 per cent priced in for the end of December. The logic of this view is hard to fault. The economy is picking up - there was fresh evidence of an emerging housing boom yesterday - therefore our dear Chancellor will put up rates as swiftly as he has brought them down, the market reasons. After all, he has said so often enough.

Perhaps this is right, and the time will come when Mr Clarke does indeed announce the first increase. But there is no earthly reason to think he will do it before the end of the year. In all the efforts the Treasury and Bank have devoted to the monetary policy arrangements, there has been nothing to determine what level of rates to aim for. The policy framework is all about the direction of change. It leaves acres of room for Mr Clarke's discretion about what level to aim for.

Consider this month's surprise cut in base rates. We do not yet have the minutes of the meeting, but presumably the Chancellor pointed to low inflation and weak manufacturing. Since then we have had more figures showing that inflation is low and manufacturing weak. There is nothing to prevent him cutting base rates again in July if he feels like it. With the Bank of England now effectively tamed, he's not going to get more than a squeak of opposition from Eddie George, who seems increasingly to be coming round to the view that his job is to judge the pub-

lic mood rather than stick to rigid inflation targets. Not that the Government has publicly announced this as his new role of course, but the shift is certainly implicit.

The way Mr Clarke sees it, he got base rates down to 5.25 per cent in 1994 without bringing the sky crashing down, so why not do it again? Well, there are reasons, such as the greater strength of the housing market now and the intervening two years of liquidity build-up by households and companies. But nothing in the monetary framework sets a limit. Mr Clarke can - and will - move his own goals. It seems a reasonable bet that interest rates have got at least another half point to fall before rising once more.

### The local pharmacy needs price control

Archie Norman's assault on that last great bastion of retail price maintenance, pharmaceutical products, is generating lots of favourable publicity for him, but it is a cause for competition authorities would be well advised to ignore. Asda's campaign has a superficial attraction, especially for healthy, affluent, busy, car-driving types who like to shop in supermarkets. That's why it gets so much support from the press. If you can get all your pharmacy needs from the supermarket, and at half the price to boot, so much the better. But there are good reasons for retail price maintenance in pharmaceuticals,

both of the prescription and over-the-counter variety, and they should not be sacrificed to the cause of rampant consumerism.

The local pharmacist performs an essential service in his community. His role goes beyond that of most local small retailing businesses; he is part of the nation's health support system. Retail price maintenance ensures that the nearest Tesco or Asda cannot undercut the Mr Parks of this world and therefore helps them stay in business. Many other small retailers would give their eye teeth for similar protection, but they don't get it. The result is that in some areas the nearest supermarket has come to take an unhealthily large share of the local grocery trade - 60 per cent in some catchment areas. Now this is something the Office of Fair Trading really should be concerned about. Supermarkets have many virtues, but they are also destroying diversity, consumer choice and decent standards of service on the high street as well as driving many small businesses to the wall.

The Office of Fair Trading should give Mr Norman short shrift. And so should Brussels, should it feel tempted to meddle. This latter possibility seems remote, however. Pharmaceuticals is one of the few industries which appears completely immune to the harmonising instincts of Brussels. From Spain to Denmark, member countries refuse to give the EU a look-in when it comes to the way medical products are regulated. And so they should.

## Bremer head detained in search for missing money

IMRE KARACS  
Bonn

The former chairman of the bankrupt German shipbuilder Bremer Vulkan spent yesterday in a police cell as investigators widened their search for some DM716m (£305m) of missing government funds and EU subsidies.

Friedrich Hennemann was detained after a series of spectacular raids on Bremer offices and the homes of company managers scattered in 29 locations in northern Germany. Police are reported to have discovered a "six-figure cash sum" and "incriminating material" in Mr Hennemann's second home, which he had kept secret from the authorities until now.

Mr Hennemann, 60, had left Germany's largest shipbuilder at the end of last year as the first returns to surface about

a large hole in Bremer's accounts. After it posted an operating loss of DM1bn for 1995, the European Commission demanded the return of DM600m worth of regional funds, forcing the company to seek protection from creditors in February. It went into receivership at the end of April, threatening 23,000 jobs.

In the past months investigators have revealed a series of irregularities at the company's Bremen headquarters, ranging from false dividend forecasts to misleading statements to creditors, but these appear to have been dwarfed by the alleged pilfering of public funds which took place over a five-year period.

In the early 1990s, Bremer Vulkan purchased a string of derelict shipyards in the former East Germany, and proceeded to harvest subsidies earmarked for the redevelopment of the eastern industry. Of the DM834m

disbursed by the EU and German taxpayers, only DM138m is estimated to have reached the shipyards in the east.

Attempts to diversify into other activities proved wholly unprofitable, but losses were concealed by transferring money destined for the east into accounts in Bremen. In effect, the EU and government funds were used to cross-subsidise the company's core groups.

Bremer's demise in a blaze of scandal threatens to turn the once prosperous Hanseatic port of Bremen into an economic disaster zone. Though the company is being kept afloat in order to regain some investment sunk into half-finished projects, the city's unemployment rate will hit a west German record of 20 per cent when the shipyards are inevitably closed.

The Bonn government has refused to bail out the company, and has denied any responsibility for Bremer's corrupt practices. But the National Court of Auditors is expected to issue a highly critical report next week, accusing the Bonn authorities, the east German privatisation agency, Treuhand, and its successor, BWS, of negligence.

Germany's leading banks, most of which seemed happy to pour good money after bad, are also unlikely to escape blame. A line of credit was arranged by leading institutions last September, at a time when rumours about Bremer's state of health were already in circulation. It is not expected that the loans will ever be repaid.

Since April, Bremer Vulkan has been broken up into its constituent groups. Ironically, the units that have proved most successful after the meltdown are the same east German shipyards that were deprived of investment by the parent company for so long.

### IN BRIEF

• Westinghouse Electric is buying Infinity Broadcasting for \$3.9bn (£2.5bn), bringing together the two biggest companies in the radio station business. A combination of Westinghouse, the nation's largest radio broadcaster, with Infinity, the number two player, will create a radio powerhouse of 83 stations with gross advertising billings of close to \$1bn. The deal follows Westinghouse's \$5.4bn purchase of the CBS television network last year.

• The Lloyd's insurance market has clinched a five-year £300m syndicated loan as part of the funding of its reconstruction and renewals plan. It has been arranged by Citibank, NatWest and Royal Bank of Canada and is fully underwritten. The loan will be repayable through a mandatory 1.1 per cent charge on premiums for 1997 and subsequent underwriting years.

• A surge in imports of crude oil helped push the US trade deficit up 7.7 per cent in April to \$8.63bn from a revised \$8.01bn in March, according to the Commerce Department. Imports rose 1.7 per cent to a record \$78.6bn as bilateral shortfalls widened sharply with trade partners including China, Canada and Mexico. Exports rose 1 per cent to a record \$69.94bn. The April deficit was slightly under Wall Street economists' expectations for an \$8.7bn gap.

• German money supply growth slowed in May, but the figure disappointed financial markets and dampened hopes for a cut in interest rates. The Bundesbank said German M3 money supply grew at an annualised rate of 10.5 per cent in May after an 11.2 per cent rise in April.

• General Motors' Opel car unit warned earnings this year are likely to be below 1995's level. "More intense competition in Germany and Europe is causing us concern," said finance director Gail Gunderson. Opel reported a 1995 net profit of £155m, up 18.2 per cent on the previous year.

• Britain's Securities and Futures Authority said it fined Standard Chartered Capital Markets £25,000 after finding it had failed to adequately supervise its back office and the activities of one of its traders. The case arose in the first half of 1995, the SFA said in a statement, adding Standard Chartered had decided to close the business of Standard Chartered Capital Markets before the incident was uncovered.

• Friends of the Earth launched a savings account with Triodos Bank designed to promote green energy. The bank anticipates raising £10m to provide loans for renewable energy and energy conservation projects. Savers will be offered rates of interest up to 5.5 per cent gross per annum.

• British Biotech commenced the first Phase III trial of its new anti-cancer drug marimastat in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer.

• Auditors must earn their way back to the top table of advisers, said Gerry Acher, head of audit at KPMG, at yesterday's annual conference of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. But be warned that this could only happen if they were helped by lawyers, industrialists and insurers in getting the liability law reformed.

• Burnfield bought Beta Instrument Company in a deal worth up to £11.2m. Beta manufactures laser-based quality and process control equipment for measuring and controlling cables and other extruded products and made profits before tax of £1.04m in the year ended March 31.

PATRICK TOOHER

The Labour Party yesterday went on the offensive over transport policy, threatening to re-regulate the bus industry if it won power at the next election and hitting out at the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

Graham Allen, Labour transport spokesman, told a conference organised by the party to present its transport

policy platform that one of its priorities would be to end the practice of rival bus operators running deliberately overlapping services in an attempt to win market share.

"One fundamental thing is to end on-the-road competition," Mr Allen said, adding that Labour wanted to provide certainty and stability for the bus industry.

Since the Conservative Government began deregulating the buses in 1985, the in-

dustry has undergone a revolution which analysts say has slowly led to the emergence of a number of big, efficient bus firms.

The pace of consolidation has increased rapidly in recent months. Earlier this week Cowie, the Sunderland-based motor dealer, became Britain's third largest bus operator when it paid £30.2m for British Bus.

But the process has also had side-effects. Critics and supporters of the liberalised

industry agree that to date there have been only limited benefits for passengers. Poor integration has created new problems with service quality and standards, rather than solving old ones.

Separately, Labour's shadow transport minister, Clare Short, claimed that the planned alliance between British Airways and American Airlines would be against the public interest.

"My considered view is that

it would be wrong to permit this merger - which will create a virtual monopoly - without proper consideration of the public interest," Ms Short told the conference.

She said she believed the plan amounted to a merger, not just an alliance, and should therefore be investigated as such. She was writing to transport minister Sir George Young to ask for an inquiry by the Civil Aviation Authority.

"This important decision must

be properly considered and properly made ... We need proper scrutiny," she said.

The CAA can only investigate commercial matters if instructed by the Government.

The transatlantic alliance, unveiled last week, requires the approval of US anti-trust regulators, who are linking such approval to getting a liberalised "open skies" bilateral agreement to create a free market on Anglo-US air routes.

## Decoders earn Pace men their fortunes

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Four directors of Pace-Micro Technology made their fortunes yesterday as the satellite and cable-decoder maker saw its shares soar on the first day of conditional dealings on the stock market. David Hood, Pace's founder and its largest shareholder, saw his personal worth leap to almost £250m.

Mr Hood, a former design engineer with Thorn EMI who started Pace in 1982, sold about 63 million shares at 172p in a placing to institutional shareholders of half the company's existing stock. As well as raising £108m from the sale he retains a holding in Pace worth almost £130m after shares in Pace jumped to 204p in the so-called grey market. Official dealings on the stock market start next week.

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# Hi-tech Pace enters at a gallop

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Valuing a fast-growing company such as satellite- and cable-decoder maker Pace-Micro was never going to be easy but no one can have expected initial estimates of a £200m market value to have been so comprehensively overtaken by events.

In grey-market dealings which started yesterday the shares jumped from a placing price of 172p to 202p, a sizeable premium when you consider that the starting price was itself considerably higher than recent expectations.

At that level, the company is valued at more than £400m and David Hood and Barry Rubery, Pace's founders, have joined the envied ranks of the rich beyond-the-dreams-of-avarice.

Private client brokers, kept out of the issue by the book-building method chosen by EZW and Panmore Gordon, were responsible for most of the buying interest yesterday as they tried to get hold of stock to satisfy their small investor clients before dealings proper get going next week.

The result of yesterday's heavy turnover has been to catapult the shares to a rating which, even in the heady world of hi-tech stocks, looks pretty ambitious. On the basis of forecast profits of £23m in the current year to next May, the shares are currently trading on about 25 times forecast earnings. Are they worth it?

Certainly Pace has an impressive position in a fast-growing market. It estimates that it makes one in every two satellite- and cable-decoders in the UK and perhaps a third of those sold throughout Europe. With the rapid transition from analogue to digital television services currently taking place that is a nice place to be.

Even more exciting is the imminent onset of digital terrestrial television in the UK in 1998. Viewers will all need special boxes to unscramble digital signals, creating enormous potential demand for Pace's receiving equipment.

An indication of the rate of growth in profits investors can expect, is that the company probably made no profit at all in the first half of last year but it has promised profits of just over £18m in the year to May just finished. Against earnings growth of 33 per cent in the current year, a prospective p/e ratio of 25 does not look so steep.

Like all hi-tech investments, of course, Pace comes with a hefty health warning attached. It is unusual for a company valued at almost half a billion pounds to be so narrowly focused on one product area and it requires something of an act of faith to assume that electronic giants such as Sony will not elbow their way into the market if it proves lucrative. As ever, the biggest

beneficiaries have probably been the institutions who got in at 172p, but if the rate of growth can be maintained Pace may also provide something for the ordinary investor.

## Wessex keeps profits flowing

Wessex Water may be the last of the privatised water companies to report its figures but it is by no means the least interesting. Like most of the utilities sector, it is embroiled in merger activity which could see the company cast as either predator or prey.

In March, Wessex made an offer for its neighbour South West Water. Seven bids also threw it into the ring. Both bids are being scrutinised by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is not due to report until September. If approved, South West could be the subject of a £900m bid battle.

Wessex management was due to meet MMC officials for the first time yesterday and the company promised share

holders that it would not over-pay. (Sewer Trent said the same thing last week.)

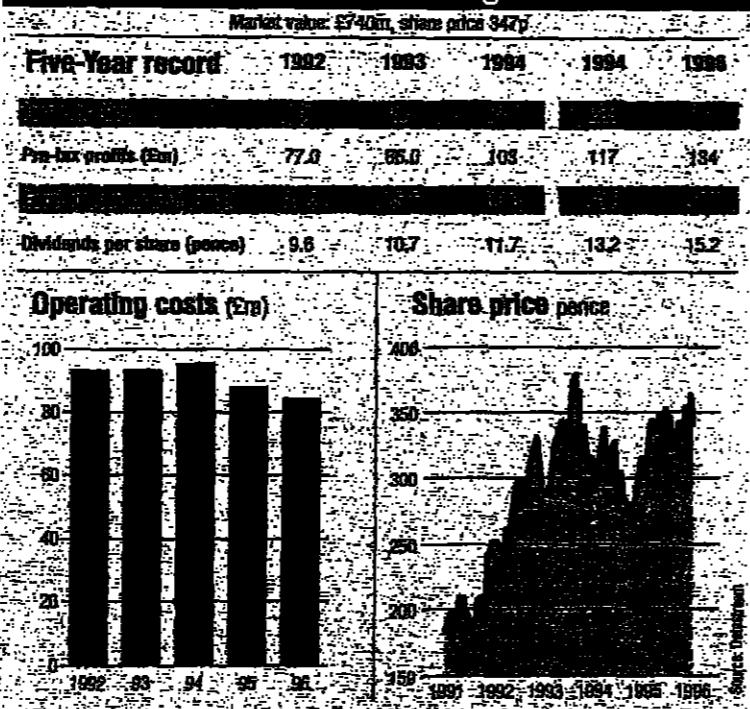
Wessex's problem is that although it is well run and has an enviable record, its relatively small size makes it vulnerable. Swallowing the accident-prone South West may act as a poison pill. It would also make it a much larger morsel for a bigger rival to digest.

All this places shareholders in a difficult position if Wessex does win South West; it ought to be able to wring out a better performance from the company. If it fails, there is always the prospect of Wessex becoming a bid target.

Yesterday's figures confirmed the good run of a company that has never issued a hosepipe ban and never made any exceptional charges in its core business. Pre-tax profits in the year to March were 14 per cent higher at £134m.

Costs have been shaved by another 4 per cent. Management is promising a similar cut this year. The waste business, which has conducted 42 acquisitions since 1991, improved profits by 20 per cent to £12m and should benefit from the landfill tax. The only negative here was the second-half drop in recycling profits.

### Wessex Water: at a glance



With £62m of net cash Wessex says it can easily gear up for a South West Water bid. If it fails it is likely to return some money to shareholders or acquire more waste management groups. Eight were acquired in the last financial year.

Analysts are forecasting profits of £144m and the shares, 7p higher yesterday, trade on a forward rating of 3. Hold.

## Overseas stores profit Courts

Whenever there is talk of how UK retailers fail to cut the mustard overseas, there is rarely any talk of Courts, the 150-year-old furnishings group. Though based in Britain, the company has outlets in far-flung spots such as Jamaica, Belize, Mauritius and Fiji.

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The company is trying to shift more of its operations from poor high street locations to out-of-town sites but has admitted making mistakes. It is now offering more interest-free credit deals, spending more on staff training and improving its merchandise. The 34 out-of-town stores now account for three-quarters of sales and several new openings are planned.

A new supermarket is opening in Dublin next week which will sell electrical equipment as well as furniture (as all the overseas store do).

Domestic like-for-like sales were 2 per cent higher over the year though the company says trade since the year-end is encouraging. The real engine of growth is overseas which accounts for all but £5m of £31m operating profits. Here comparative sales rose by 8 per cent.

South-east Asia increased profits by 28 per cent and the Caribbean by 65 per cent. Only the Pacific region disappointed, with profits slumping by 2.4% due to regulatory changes.

With the Malaysian operations set to be floated off within the next two years and other divisions expected to follow, this age-old plodder should continue to perform. The shares have performed well this year and jumped another 35p to 995p yesterday. With analysts upgrading profits forecasts to £21.4m for the year the shares are on a fancy multiple of 22. But the premium rating is deserved.

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# High cost of capital raises spectre of new Big Bang

Are companies being ripped off by the City over rights issues? The question has risen to the top of the agenda this summer because the Office of Fair Trading is contemplating referring City corporate finance fees and commissions to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

If it does go after the nettle and set up a full-scale MMC inquiry, perhaps in the autumn, the only predictable thing about the outcome is that it is likely to lead to radical changes in the way the City operates.

Some of the more nervous already see this as the corporate finance equivalent of the OFT inquiry in the early 1980s that sparked the reforms of the Stock Exchange that led to Big Bang.

At present, the main way for companies to raise new equity capital in the UK is the underwritten rights issue, in which existing shareholders have a legal right to first refusal of new shares, and City institutions usually guarantee, for a fee, to buy any shares not taken up. In this way the risks are spread widely round the markets.

If this system of pre-emption rights combined with underwriting were to disappear or be seriously weakened, the big international investment banking and securities houses could sweep the smaller corporate finance and broking players off the field. Only the international houses have sufficiently strong balance sheets to cope with the alternative methods of raising capital, which involve advisers taking large quantities of shares on to their own books and selling them direct to investors rather than spreading the risk around the City.

Not surprisingly, self-interest has deeply divided the City between



BUSINESS VIEW  
PETER RODGERS

those who like the present system, those who would prefer to tear it up and start again, and a third group somewhere in the middle that believes pre-emption rights and underwriting should be kept, but in a watered-down form.

The idea that there is a unified City view is a complete illusion, as the vested interests scrap among themselves and accuse each other of multiple conflicts of interest. For example, the fee-earning sub-underwriters are the same institutions

## By focusing on underwriting fees, the OFT may be going down a blind alley

that also buy most of the shares, so they hardly have a neutral interest in the price.

But the rights issue argument is only a part of it. What was once an arcane subject confined mainly to the corporate finance textbooks is growing into a much wider debate about the cost of capital. Does the way the City raises capital for companies hold back British industry?

John Mayo, finance director of drug giant Zeneca and a member of the Confederation of British Industry companies committee, is one of those who believe the City's methods are a hindrance to British competitiveness because they raise the cost of capital. The employers

have set up a committee expected to make recommendations to the OFT this summer. The Treasury is also said to be questioning current practice for the same reason.

Several intertwined questions complicate the debate and they will require a great deal of patience from the MMC if it is to disentangle them.

The first is whether pre-emption rights should be kept; the second is the high level of fees charged for rights issues by advisers and underwriters; and the third is how the over-

underwriting should be brought down, preferably by increased competition.

Studies by Paul Marsh of the London Business School have suggested that the fees amount to profiteering on a grand scale, and while the Bank of England disputes his figures it has accepted that there are excess profits.

One difficulty is that companies nearly always promise to maintain dividends even on the enlarged equity after a rights issue. So arithmetically, the cost, in effect, of servicing the new capital does rise as the discount increases. Defenders of rights issues have two responses to this. One is that they would not object if companies did start slashing their dividends when they make rights issues, to reduce the cash drain.

This represents a highly significant shift of opinion among pension and insurance funds, away from their previous position of defending dividends at all costs. But their fundamental argument is that to regard dividends as the cost of capital is to measure the wrong thing. The real cost of equity to the shareholders who own the company is not the dividend but the opportunity cost – what they would get if they put their money elsewhere.

The important judgement, according to defenders of the system, is whether the managers of the company will make an adequate return on investing the new money they are handed by shareholders. Only the existing owners are entitled to make that judgement, so therefore the rights issue must stay.

Most defenders of pre-emption rights accept only one serious argument against the present system: that the City's fixed underwriting fees, which have held steady at 2 per cent for the last 40 years, are too high and

ought to be brought down, preferably by increased competition.

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London Business School have suggested that the fees amount to profiteering on a grand scale, and while the Bank of England disputes his figures it has accepted that there are excess profits.

The real problem is that all these arguments for the status quo only add together if the capital market is seen as a closed world, where British industry is owned and funded by British institutions. The case becomes much weaker, certainly for larger companies, the more they look to international markets for finance.

US companies, which have no pre-emption rights to worry about, can choose the cheapest market to raise equity capital, on either side of the Atlantic. British companies have no such flexibility: they are bound to go first to their existing shareholders, largely in the UK, and over the years they will be penalised.

At present, they can sell up to 5 per cent of their shares to new investors, without the restraint of pre-emption rights. They want this limit raised to at least 15 and preferably 25 per cent, so they can sell shares, as the Americans do, direct to new holders.

True, fees to investment bankers

are even higher in the US. But the

strong US preference for these more liberal methods suggests the overall cost of capital may well be lower.

In fact, by focusing on City un-

derwriting fees John Bridgeman, di-

rector-general of the OFT, may be

going down a blind alley. The best way

to cut the cost of raising capital

would be to encourage competition

from alternative methods of raising

equity, and that does mean easing the

rules on pre-emption rights.



Grasping the nettle: John Bridgeman, director-general of the OFT, may refer City corporate finance fees to the MMC

## Foreign Exchange Rates

	Sterling			Dollar		
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5916	5.3	11.5	1000	—	—
Canada	2.3779	11.3	50.57	13787	2.1	2.0
Germany	2.3501	51.44	165.52	15944	25.24	84.81
France	7.9787	136.120	344.363	52685	73.69	277.207
Italy	2.3667	58.73	185.189	15353	44.51	123.135
Japan	16.856	75.70	225.28	10244	45.44	136.133
ECU	1.2615	11.51	45.40	1246	7.8	23.25
Belgium	4.8350	35.28	102.28	13170	6.5	16.16
Denmark	9.0500	125.12	481.386	58705	85.65	270.220
Netherlands	2.8283	69.40	192.02	17078	35.32	83.60
Ireland	0.9719	7.0	22.02	15983	4.7	12.17
Norway	1.0257	12.00	310.200	15281	42.17	178.00
Spain	2.2782	21.47	69.85	12235	64.72	147.42
Australia	1.5643	1.9	10.50	12444	0.65	4.05
Switzerland	1.2643	54.46	152.40	12454	37.84	102.34
Australia*	1.6543	20.31	57.85	12577	15.21	54.55
Hong Kong	1.9333	101.80	224.07	17405	2.12	5.55
Malaysia	5.7740	0.0	0.4	12448	4.14	8.40
New Zealand	2.7729	49.57	133.58	15043	2.0	4.14
Saudi Arabia	5.7818	0.0	0.0	12505	2.7	8.14
Singapore	2.2744	0.0	0.0	14085	41.30	103.69

## Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	15.400	0.9867	Nigeria	132.92	880000
Austria	16.5332	107.288	Oman	0.9597	0.3850
Brazil	15.4565	10025	Pakistan	53.008	349550
China	12.8313	8322	Philippines	40.475	262500
Egypt	5.3031	3.4409	Portugal	24.476	15640
Finland	7.5546	43.688	Qatar	5.615	3540
Ghana	24.6523	16000	Russia	76734	507000
Greece	37.6686	24030	South Africa	8.7277	43630
India	53.0308	34900	Taiwan	42.930	27640
Kuwait	0.6223	0.2988	UAE	5.6839	35731
Forward rates quoted high to low at a discount; low to high at a premium;					
*Offered/called less than 1% above/below mid;					
For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 223 3033.					
Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.					

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subtracted from spot rate add to spot rate

Index calculated on local basis.

Yield calculated on local basis.

Yield



# Scots' view can secure silverware

## Golf

TIM GLOVER  
reports from Killarney

If Great Britain and Ireland retain the Curtis Cup against the United States over the next two days the team might be indebted to the musical tastes of Jonathan Butler. The 20 year old son of the non-playing captain, Ian Butler, has compiled a tape which is designed to raise the spirits of the players.

"It's very good," Mrs Butler said. "We sing along but I have to say that our bus driver isn't impressed." The tape contains Queen, Bob Marley and Tina Turner singing "Simply the Best". Whether the class of '96 is better than all the rest will be decided over two series of three foursomes and six singles.

The Curtis Cup (eight members per team) is the one played by female amateurs for a Revere Bowl donated by the Boston sisters, Margaret and Harriet Curtis. "We were not impressed by either the size or quality of the cup," Margaret once remarked, "yet it was the best that could be obtained in Boston at the time." Not that the concept excited Sir Ernest Holderness, a former British amateur champion, who wrote: "No one could expect a married woman with young children to win championships. That is a shocking thought. It would be enough ground for a divorce."

The first Curtis Cup match was held at Wentworth in 1932 and 15,000 spectators saw the United States gain a close victory. It is doubtful if anywhere near that number of people will pay £20 to enter the gates of the Killarney Golf and Fishing Club in Co Kerry, especially as the Great Britain and Ireland team has no Irishwoman.

However, it does have, Ian Butler, an Irish captain. "I think I've got the best eight players," Butler said, "so I suppose someone can't come into it for something as important as the Curtis Cup. The team has a number of strengths. All are fine players and they get along with each other. It means you can build up a wonderful team spirit and that's very important."

American dominance in the Curtis Cup was once as pronounced as those other Transatlantic mismatches, the Ryder Cup and the Walker Cup, but the tide has turned. Europe regained the Ryder Cup in Rochester, New York, and Great Britain and Ireland won the Walker Cup at Royal Portrush last year.

There is a good chance that Britain and Ireland will take possession of more silverware this weekend. The United States, who had 13 successive victories in the biennial match from 1960, has lost three of the last five. Two years ago in Chattanooga the match ended in a 9-9 tie after Janice Moodie defeated the American veteran Carol Semple Thompson at the 18th in the final singles.

Semple Thompson, who is 47, is playing in her ninth Curtis Cup, an American record, and in the foursomes today she and Christie Kerr take on Moodie and Mhairi McKay. Moodie and McKay, both Scots, have insight into American golf. Moodie is a student at San Jose University while McKay, at 21 the youngest member of the team, has been a regular winner on the US collegiate circuit, representing Stanford University. McKay, an outstanding prospect, holds the ladies record for the Old Course at St Andrews with a 67 in 1993.

"Golf scholarships are available for girls and the women's amateur game in America is getting stronger every year," Martha Lang, the US captain said. "There are many better players than there were 10-15 years ago. All of them are hitting the ball further and playing a much stronger game." Few play a stronger game than Julie Hall. She has been on three winning sides and plays in her fifth and last Curtis Cup before becoming tournament secretary with the Ladies' Golf Union.

On one of Kerr's most scenic courses (with a touch of the blarney they call it "Heaven's Reflet") where Nick Faldo won the Irish Open in 1991 and 1992, the ladies will receive invaluable local knowledge. Their caddies for the two-day competition are members of the Irish youth squad.

CURTIS CUP Great Britain and Ireland v United States Killarney: Tee-off times for today's opening foursomes (GB and USA names first): 08.30: GB v USA; 09.30: Mairi McKay v Carol Semple Thompson; 10.30: Mairi McKay v Carol Semple Thompson; 11.30: Mairi McKay v Carol Semple Thompson.

Higgins takes the lead

David Higgins, a 23-year-old Irishman, and the former British youth champion, Lee Westwood from Worksop, stole the limelight from some more celebrated golfers during the first round of the BMW International Open in Munich yesterday.

Higgins, playing his first full year on the European Tour, came within one shot of the St Eurach course record with an eight-under-par 64 to take the outright lead. "Today was by far the most important round of my career," he said.

Westwood, who once described himself as "just a plodder", looked as if he might



Carl Lewis qualifies for the Olympic long jump competition

Photograph: Reuter

# Lewis eager to defend Olympic long jump title

## Athletics

Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson are on their way to Atlanta, but the way they secured their Olympic berths could not have been more contrasting.

The 34-year-old Lewis gained an opportunity to win an unprecedented fourth consecutive long jump gold medal when he leapt 8.30 metres on his second attempt and hung on for the third and final place in the US trials in Atlanta on Wednesday.

"This is a very exciting time for me because the long jump has always been my favourite event," said Lewis, who finished last in the 100 metres trial. "Just to be up here with a chance to go to the Olympics again is a tremendous feeling."

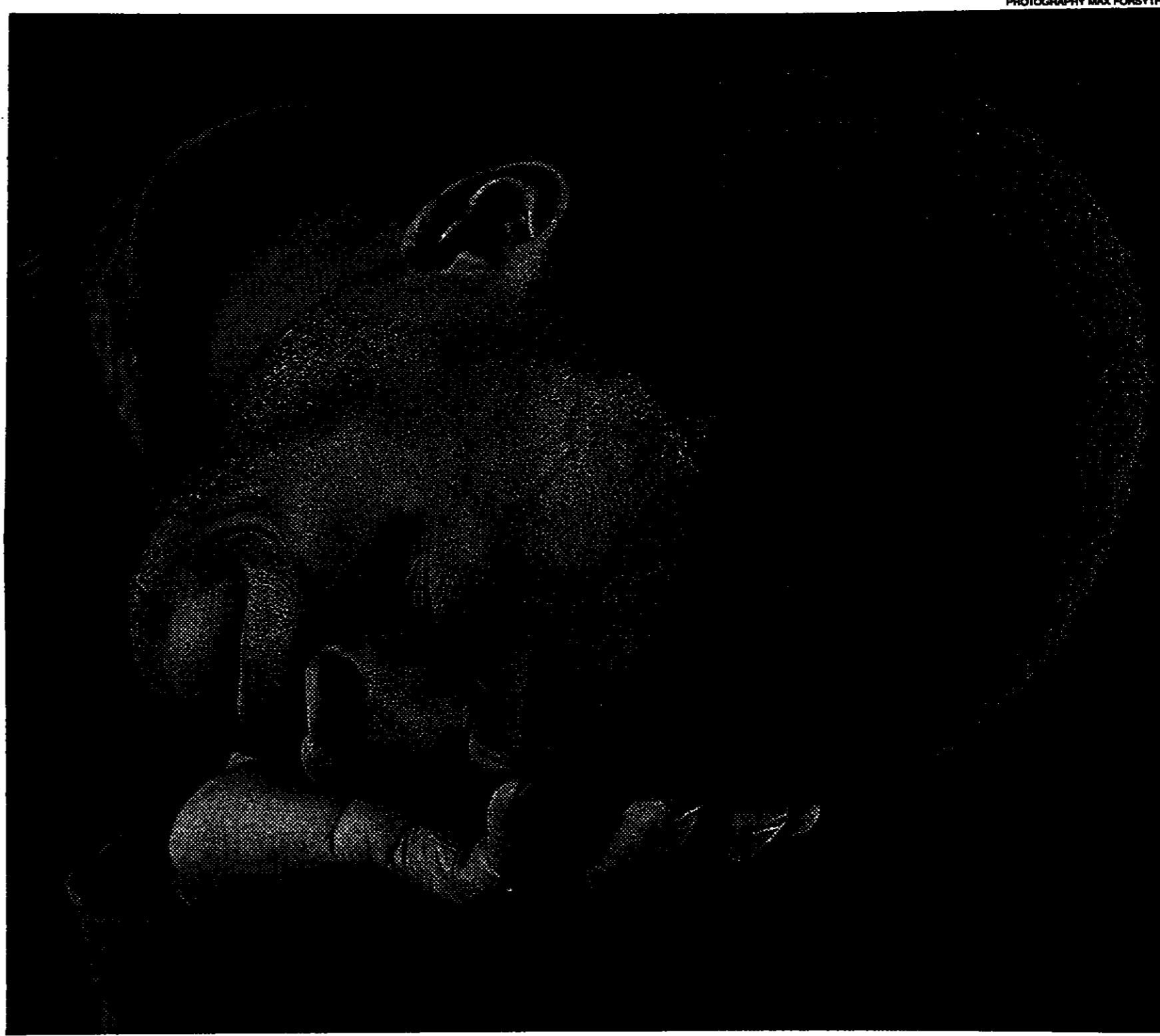
Mike Powell, the 1992 silver medallist and world record holder, won the long jump with 8.39m. Joe Greene, the 1988 Olympic silver medallist, claimed second place in 8.31, the first time he has run under 44 seconds since 1988.

Jonathan Edwards, whose world record is 43.29, and Johnson, who won the World Championship last year in 43.39, have run faster. Edwards, the 1988 Olympic silver medallist, claimed second place in 43.91, the first time he has run under 44 seconds since 1988.

Edwards believes a resurgence of form by Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell, plus Roger Black's British 400m record at the weekend trials, has taken some of the pressure off him. "It was a great weekend for British athletics and has probably helped me a great deal," he said.

The Commonwealth heptathlon champion, Denise Lewis, has turned down the chance to double up at Atlanta. Lewis was selected for both the heptathlon and the long jump but she has now decided to concentrate on her specialist event, the heptathlon, in which she recently set a new British record. Her decision means that Britain will not have an entrant in the long jump in Atlanta.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAX FORSYTHE



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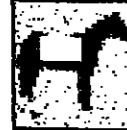
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# sport

## Muster pulls out of Wimbledon

### Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS

As far as Thomas Muster is concerned, injury was added to insult yesterday when a thigh strain caused him to withdraw from the Wimbledon championships, which start on Monday.

Muster, who accused the All England Club of disrespect in disregarding his ATP Tour world ranking of No 2 and demoted him to No 7 in the seedings, aggravated the injury when playing in the grass-court tournament in Halle, Germany.

The Austrian was leading New Zealand's Brett Steven, 6-4, 1-0, when he experienced pain in the left thigh. Steven went on to win 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

### British pair make exit

Mark Petchey followed his fellow Briton Tim Henman, out of the Nottingham Open yesterday after being just two points away from a semi-final place. During a second-set tie-break against the Australian Sandor Stolle, the British No 5 netted a backhand volley at 6-6 and then Stolle levelled the match with a winning overhead.

Stolle then took the final set to become the second player into the last four, after a 3-6, 7-6, 6-3 victory. Jan Siemerink, the No 5 seed from the Netherlands, had already reached the semi-finals by beating Henman 7-6, 6-7, 6-1.

"This injury brings the consequence that I will not be playing Wimbledon," Muster said. "In nine weeks I've had six days off, which is not enough, so I'll have to leave Wimbledon out."

Muster, his left thigh strapped, limped badly through the last two sets against Steven. He continued to play, despite being unable to run at full speed because of an injury originally sustained at Queen's.

"I really didn't have time to recover," Muster said. "I had all possible therapy to get rid of it but all it did was ease the pain."

The Austrian had worked hard to prepare himself on grass for Wimbledon, and said his withdrawal was not related to the seeding controversy.

"I really didn't have time to recover," Muster said. "I had all

possible therapy to get rid of it but all it did was ease the pain."

Krajicek's original place is taken by Sweden's Anders Jarryd, lucky loser from the qualifying competition. Jarryd, who lost to Boris Becker in the 1985 semi-finals, when the 17-year-old German went on to become the youngest, and only unseeded, men's singles champion, plays Britain's Chris Wilkins.

■ Play was washed out the Direct Line Insurance Championships at Eastbourne yesterday. The quarter-finals and semi-finals will be played today, starting at 11am.

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"One has nothing to do with the other," said Muster, who hopes to be back for the Mercedes Cup tournament in Stuttgart starting on 15 July.

On Tuesday, Muster played down suggestions that he might pull out in protest at his seeding. "It doesn't matter that I've never won a match at Wimbledon," he said. "I'm still No 2 in the world. I think to seed the world No 7 is 2 players in the world No 7 is quite respectable."

His place in the draw is taken by Richard Krajicek, who becomes the No 17 seed. The big-serving Dutchman will play Spain's Javier Sanchez in the opening round, and could provide the opposition for Greg Rusedski if the Briton advances to the third round. Having said that, Krajicek has lost in the first round in the past two years.

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■ PLAY WAS WASHED OUT THE DIRECT LINE INSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT EASTBOURNE YESTERDAY. THE QUARTER-FINALS AND SEMI-FINALS

## ROYAL ASCOT: The meeting's centrepiece, the Gold Cup, goes to a horse wintered in the Gulf who is too hot for the favourite Cliche broadcasts benefits of Dubai

RICHARD EDMONDSON  
reports from Ascot

Phase one of the Godolphin experiment has been completed with proof positive that horses wintered in Dubai are a potent force in British racing. Yesterday the team's Classic Cliche captured the Gold Cup and Sheikh Mohammed launched phase two.

Dubai's crown prince is seeking to establish his homeland as a racing centre of global importance and he revealed that approaches have been made from fellow owners to send their animals to the Emirate for tuning over the cold months. There is no greater sandwich board for the health properties of the Gulf than Classic Cliche, who has now won the Dante Stakes over 10 furlongs, the St Leger and the most coveted marathon in Flat racing.

Yesterday, the colt was asked to topple the goliath of the staying ranks, Double Trigger, and it was not a question that taxed him too greatly. From the safety of the grandstands there were plenty willing to speculate that Jason Weaver on Double Trigger had gone too slowly in front, allowing Classic Cliche to conserve his finishing kick in the warm bosom of the main pack. Certainly the odds-on favourite had little with which to retaliate in the furious run to the line.

Michael Kinane, on the other hand, was the focus of much praise, though even the jockey himself admitted his partner made it simple for the man at the controls. "We went to sleep nicely early on and when we challenged my fellow just hung a bit to the centre of the course," he said. "But he won very comfortably. He was the classiest horse in the race."

Sheikh Mohammed was pleased his colt had shown such versatility. "Good-class horses

like him stay," he said. "We have proved a point and now we will go back in distance." The cycled race for Classic Cliche is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, and there is a slight chance that the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes will be a pit stop along the way.

The Gold Cup rather ruined the British star-rate of Sylvain Guillot, the rider of third-placed Nononito, who has gone into the race with a perfect two-race record. The gentlemen of Britain stereotypically do not look too kindly on their French counterparts (perhaps because their women folk have the opposite emotion) and Britain's jockeys are unlikely to reverse the trend. Following Olivier

RICHARD EDMONDSON  
NAP: Anzio  
(Royal Ascot 3.45)  
NB: Admirals Well  
(Royal Ascot 5.30)

Peslier's cool performance the previous afternoon, Guillot too suggested he had kept his nerves in the fridge overnight with victory on Tulipa in a non-vintage Ribblesdale Stakes. The 25-year-old's only previous foray to these shores had been to steer Desmet Emperor to success in the Champion Stakes two years ago. A three-day suspension for his use of the whip did not appear to have ruined Guillot's day.

Tulipa's victory had ignited a Maktoum benefit. Four races went to the family, while the Norfolk Stakes was collected by Tisy Creek, the property of Abbash Ali, an associate of the brothers. Mr Ali, we were told, works in construction and owns something that was unknown in the Emirates just three decades ago, a string of car washes. The remaining event also went to a son of the desert, Mohammed Alqattami's Samraan surviving



Classic Cliche and Michael Kinane outgun Double Trigger in yesterday's Gold Cup at Ascot

Photograph: Howard

the scrumming of the King George V Handicap.

The identity of the world's most powerful owners has not been lost on Ben Hanbury. While the trainer's Tisy Creek circled in the paddock there was no doubt where the best turned-out award should go. The horse didn't look bad either.

Hanbury was his usual neat self, dotted with more badges than Baden-Powell and sporting a yellow carnation to match

his socks. Even as the Newmarket trainer led his sweating beast back into the winners' enclosure the ensemble was undisturbed.

Hanbury had placed a morning advertisement in one of the trade papers, outlining his many skills, and here was the greatest commercial of them all. He did not waste the opportunity. There were very few bearded men from the east who did not feel his palm in their hand.

**POST-RACE:** No jockey has won the race more than once in the past 10 years

**THE WORINGHAM STAKES - 10-YEAR-TALE**

Year	Winning Trainer	Winning Jockey	Prize Money (£)
1986	67	NE	29
1987	90	SI	22
1988	94	RE	25
1989	15	SI	28
1990	15	SI	28
1991	15	SI	28
1992	15	SI	28
1993	15	SI	28
1994	15	SI	28
1995	15	SI	28

**PRIZE MONEY:** £3,500. Second Favories £10.00  
Proceedings of winner placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in previous race 50%  
Shortened-priced winner Bet: 1.12 (1995)

**TOP TRAINERS:** R Henton (22), Knight Of Mercy (1990) & Venue Capitalist (1994)

**TOP JOCKEY:** No jockey has won the race more than once in the past 10 years

the classiest horse in the race."

Sheikh Mohammed was

pleased his colt had shown such

versatility. "Good-class horses

are a must for us," he said. "It's

GOING: Good to Firm. STAKES: Straight course - centre; round course - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

■ Right-hand course with testing uphill finish.

COURSE: New junction of A329 & A300. From M3 (June 8) and M4 (June 6), 52.410; M3-Stone - 16 miles; 158 runners, 10.1%, 553.02; Helicopter-landing facility at course (Heathrow 15 km). Railway station (service from London Waterloo) adjacent course. ADDRESS: Members address booking only; Grandstand & Paddock 228; Silver Row, Cirencester, Glos. PARKS: No 1's, 2 & 4, 8, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22.

STANDS: 2000. Total: 70,000.

BOX OFFICE: 01285 722222.

ADMISSION: £10.00.

TIME: 1.15pm.

TELECAST: 1.15pm.

ADMISSION: £10.00.

TIME: 1.15pm.

28

# sport

# Bang the drum for the friendly championship.

There is good reason to bang the drum for Euro 96. And sound the horn, play the trumpet, ring the cowbell. All those pre-tournament scare stories – widespread reports of secret meetings of Euro-hooligans, threats that "they'll have to stop it half-way through", World War III and camp-sites full of drunken rioting fans – have simply not materialised.

Not that anyone should be complacent. Things may change if England get knocked out, especially if they are beaten by Germany in the semi-finals next Wednesday. But if that is as bad as it gets, then England can rightly claim the most trouble-free European-based tournament for many years.

In fact, foreign football supporters have more or less no record of causing trouble in England. The likelihood of it happening at Euro 96 was never more than remote. Our city centres have never been battlegrounds

for marauding gangs of Swiss, Dutch, Turks or even Germans trashing bars and wrecking shop windows. Frankly, anyone who might have felt like starting something would have looked stupid and out of place.

So far I have been to eight games at seven venues and have no doubt that English fans are thoroughly enjoying the experience of meeting supporters from all around Europe and beyond. The ticket chaos (of which more later), allied to the large number of European nationals living in England, has meant that segregation has been largely non-existent.

The main advantage has been that English fans, who for the most part are enthusiastic but neutral observers, have mixed with more passionate and committed foreign supporters and thus become caught up in the songs, noise and European atmosphere.

This was typified at last week's Bulgaria-Romania game in New-

castle, when a large section of English fans good-naturedly heckled police who tried to stop a Bulgarian drummer. When the officers realised they were on a loser, they sensibly backed off and the Bulgarian held his drum aloft to the crowd, who cheered him raucously.

In 29 years of watching football I cannot recall an atmosphere like that at Villa Park for Scotland's game against the Netherlands. From the camp-site, the supporters marched together to the stadium led by a piper. At the ground, identifying which country the fans were following was not easy, with many supporters wearing both teams' colours.

I sat in front of two Dutchmen and a Scot. They debated and discussed the game, passionately but always

with tolerance for each other's team. This turned to mockery at Wembley on Saturday when, as "Three Lions on the shirt" was resounding over the Tamay at the end, England fans reworded "It's coming home, Football's coming home" to "You're going home, Scotland's going home" before applauding the loyalty of their opponents' support. Much respect.

The police have responded generally very well to the atmosphere. A Norwegian colleague remarked how pleased she was that the British police were not togged out in riot gear and how they entered into the spirit of the occasion by posing for photographs. Nobody ever wanted to get rid of them. Secondly, the prices were too high, with no reductions for children. Thirdly, tickets were, initially at least, not available on match days

sponsoring for the ticketing arrangements could not join in with the spirit of friendliness and tolerance shown by the fans. My thesaurus does not have a word to describe accurately the mess that the Football Association and Uefa, the governing body of European football, have got themselves in. The Football Supporters' Association's football embassies have been inundated with disgruntled and incredulous supporters.

The crux of the problem is three-fold. First, many tickets were sold on to third parties – non-European football associations, sponsors and tour companies which then could not get rid of them. Secondly, the prices were too high, with no reductions for children. Thirdly, tickets were, initially at least, not available on match days

until pressure from the FSA (among others) brought a change of heart.

It is a variation on the system used at previous world and European tournaments: as long as someone has paid the organisers for tickets, they are considered sold and it is irrelevant where they actually end up. Thus, tour reps have been wandering around towns and cities with fistfuls for the Villa Park quarter-final or the Italy-Germany game at Old Trafford, among others.

At the same time, 40 angry German supporters were turned away from Elland Road before the Spain-Romania game (where the attendance was 16,000 below capacity) because they had not got tickets. The only place you could buy tickets on the day was from the tourist office in Leeds railway station – and no bus had told them.

In the circumstances, the Criminal Justice Act has rightly been

treated with contempt as common sense policing has allowed face value or under-priced ticket trading to be widely conducted just round that corner where I can't see you".

One sponsor ended up giving away tickets before the Denmark-Portugal game, while the FSA's Sheffield embassy succeeded in persuading two Danish tour operators to donate 350 tickets to local schools.

With the World Cup in France two years away there is much to be learned, and a meeting of English, German and Dutch fan activists (who have been working away at the FSA's football embassies) last night discussed an approach to Uefa and the French organising committee to see if a fairer and more flexible ticketing system can be implemented for 1998. But it will take a major change of policy from football's governing bodies for this to happen.

## Spaniards exclude prying eyes

DERRICK WHYTE

pended tomorrow after picking up his second yellow card of Euro 96 against the Dutch.

David Platt, who proved his fitness after a rib injury with a 23-minute appearance as Ince's replacement against the Dutch, is likely to start in place of the Internazionale player.

Spain are unlikely to be caught unawares by England, as several of their squad have close links with Venables. Their goalkeeper and captain, Andoni Zubizarreta, who holds a record 108 caps for his country, was at Barcelona during the Venables era in the mid-1980s. The experienced striker Julio Salinas will also remember Venables, after scoring 20 goals for Barcelona in the 1988/89 season – when his form forced Gary Lineker out on to the right wing prior to his return to England with Tottenham.

Clemente also has connections with England. He marked his debut in charge of the national team with a 1-0 win over Graham Taylor's side in Santander in September 1992. In the 1980s, when Clemente was coaching Athletic Bilbao, he travelled to Suffolk to learn from the Ipswich Town manager, Bobby Robson.

"He [Clemente] was very enthusiastic about the game and wanted to learn as much as he could about the English style of play," Robson recalled. While Venables was with Barcelona, Clemente was in charge of the Catalan city's other club, Español, taking them to the 1988 UEFA Cup final. He took over as national team coach in 1992.

The Spanish "armada" was on the move yesterday, checking out the Oulton Hall Hotel, near Leeds, and moving to the Sorbun House Hotel, near St Albans – which was the Dutch base during their group fixtures.

**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP** Qualifying: Tuesday: England v Spain (2.00) (at Wembley); France v Netherlands (6.30) (at Arnhem). Sunday: Germany v Croatia (6.00) (at Old Trafford); Portugal v Czech Republic (15.00) (at Parc des Princes).

## Germany must do better

Germany were yesterday left in no doubt that they could join Italy on the Euro 96 scrapheap unless they show a dramatic improvement in Sunday's quarter-final match against Croatia.

Berti Vogts, the coach, was unimpressed by the lacklustre performance in the goalless draw against Italy and said: "We have a lot to learn – and that match was a hint that we are far from being a really good

team. We were much more concentrated in the second half and fought like lions with only 10 men on the field," he added. "That is something we can build on – but we have to play better football."

Vogts has injury doubts over his defenders Thomas Helmer, Stefan Reuter and René Schneider while Thomas Strunz, sent off against Italy, is suspended for the game at Old Trafford.



Brothers in arms: Portugal's Luis Figo (left) and Domingos embrace on reaching the last eight. Photograph: Allsport

## Oliveira's oracle clouds over

Phil Shaw finds the precocious Portuguese professing caution

Portugal have been described as the Brazilians of Europe, and not simply because they share a language. Their arrival at the quarter-final stage of Euro 96 might have been expected to coax their coach into putting his stern countenance on hold yesterday, but Antonio Oliveira's mood again appeared to be more sombre than samba.

For once it was not Oliveira's strained relations with the Portuguese press or his seemingly paranoid allegations about victimisation by referees that accounted for a dourness which contrasts starkly with the youthful abandon of his team. Instead, it was his announcement that Sunday's match against the Czech Republic at Villa Park would be "dedicated to the children of East Timor".

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Difficult as it may be to imagine, the British "mad cow" crisis and the blues of Little Englanders are not the major talking points beyond these shores. In Portugal, the main topic (apart from the finals) is repression in the former colony of East Timor where, Oliveira claims, the police are the other overbearing force.

Making sure no one could represent Oliveira as taking victory for granted, his interpreter pointed out the game was being dedicated – not victory. The sub-text was that the Portuguese do not regard a place in the last four as a formality – at least not publicly – even though the Czechs are rank outsiders among the survivors.

The Portugal squad uprooted last night from their base at a converted 13th-century priory just outside Derby in order to set up camp at Sandbach in Cheshire. They will stay in the hotel vacated by the vanquished Italians, and train, as did the Azurri, at the Manchester Metropolitan University grounds at nearby Alsager.

Of which appears strange given that these facilities are further from Birmingham, until you realise that Portugal will play at Old Trafford in the semi-final if they beat the Czechs. Whether that counts as presumption or planning is open to conjecture.

Either way, Oliveira was never likely to be effusive about

their prospects. Those with a smattering of Portuguese swear he said something along the lines of taking each game as it comes. "Our first concern is our own team," he was translated as saying, "though we've had the Czech Republic watched and we have videos of them."

Oliveira's concern about the Timorese problem was a reminder that when Portugal reached the semi-finals of the World Cup in 1966, losing to England in the tournament's best match, the backbone of the team came from their imperial outposts. From Mozambique there was Eusebio, and Mario Coluna; from Angola, José Aguiar.

Three of the current squad – Oliveira, from the Cape Verde Islands, and the Angolans Adelino and Paulo Madeira – share a similar background. In the main, however, Portugal's return to respectability has been built on the youth policy initiated by Oliveira's predecessor, Carlos Queiroz.

Most of the side who beat Croatia 3-0 on Wednesday gathered together, or a year or

two apart, in the World Youth Cup-winning sides of 1989 and 91. The average age of those on duty at Nottingham was 25, with only Oceano, 33, over 27.

Fresh-faced flamboyance has a tendency, alas, to be stifled by more experienced and rugged opponents or by a lack of mental toughness. How did Oliveira feel his fledglings would cope with the magnitude of their next match? "That is a question," he mused, his bar so straight he should have been playing down the road for Derbyshire, "that we can only answer after the game."

Attempts to discover the post-Euro 96 destination of those players not already established in Italy or Spain met equally dogged resistance. Fernando Couto, the centre-back coveted by Manchester United and Rangers, declined to elaborate on his plans. Jorge Cadete, now with Celtic, admitted his team-mate had asked him about Glasgow, but said he had no inkling as to his preference.

Fortunately, the Portuguese

also have in common with Brazil a fluency in the language of the beautiful game. On Sunday we shall begin to learn exactly how articulate they are.

## Euro 96 RIP-OFFS

Two Euro 96 T-shirts scream the word on Coca-Cola cans. The catch is that you need 30 pull-ups from the 500 splits cans, which makes the 'free' T-shirt £30.

## Wedding bells may be silent

Old rivals in another era

Vladimir Šutic, the Czech substitute who scored the dramatic last-minute equaliser in Wednesday's 3-3 draw against Russia which took his side into the quarter-finals at Italy's expense, has a problem.

If the Czechs are eliminated

from the final on 30 June, the 30-year-old Šutic will have to wait

until his wedding, which is due to be held on 22 June in the Czech capital. He is engaged to Pavla Vrbová, the daughter of Ladislav Vrbovský, a member of the Czechoslovak side which finished third in the 1962 World Cup in Chile.

Šutic's bride-to-be, Šárka, is the daughter of a former footballer, Miroslav Šutic, who was a member of the Czechoslovak team that won the 1962 World Cup.

Šutic, 30, has been training with the Czech national team since November, but has not yet been appointed the new manager at Šumperk today. He is due to play for Šumperk on Friday.

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## TODAY'S FIXTURES

Rugby League Super League: Wigan v St Helens (7.30); Second Division: Doncaster v Oldham (7.30).

Speedway Premier League: Belle Vue v Oxford (7.30); Conference League: Aylesbury v Swindon (7.30).

Other sports

Boxing: Women's British Championships (Leamington Spa).

Cycling: 100th Anniversary of the Tour de France (Paris).

Triathlon: Women's World Cup (Hull).

Tennis: Women's Davis Cup (London).

Football: FA Cup (Cardiff).

WWE: Royal Rumble (New Jersey).

Snooker: World Cup (Birmingham).

Motor racing: Formula 1 (Silverstone).

Formula 3000: Formula 3000 (Silverstone).

Formula 3: Formula 3 (Silverstone).

Formula 3000: Formula 3000 (Silverstone).

Formula 3: Formula 3 (Silverstone).

Formula 3000: Formula 3000

# Wells and Whitaker dig deep

## Cricket

DEREK HODGSON  
reports from Bradford  
Leicestershire 461-4  
v Yorkshire

Leicestershire, in 16 visits to Park Avenue, have never won on this ground, so the scoreboard last night fairly sparkled for the few present who follow the Running Fox. Their team looked brisk, chirpy, confident when the Championship leaders were thoroughly out of sorts, missing five catches and bowling without inspiration or guile.

For James Whitaker, Leicestershire's new captain, it was especially satisfying. As a Skipton-born schoolboy he was sent to the Winter Shed at Headingley where the coaches proved less discerning than those at Uppingham School. When he had made his name at Grace Road, and played for England, a plot was hatched to bring him back to Yorkshire as captain, and that collapsed, too.

With a little crosswind and a pitch that has offered nothing more than an even bounce, the first indication of what was "right" likely to happen came

Whitaker omitted Carlos to include a spinner, v Brimson. His decision was fully vindicated as Darren Gough and Darren Madsen with near disdain, took 4 in 52 minutes,

## Ham strikes back for Kent

By Alan Weston  
shire 42-4

John May naked as M. sion, Warwickshire into the con. e felt they had the Florence of the open with a dip Kent, who often the "mad cow" difficult after de-

The face-on a pitch that European Union Pollock with erument, we since joining the Minister t this year, and Common with the best of British b. as Warwickshire, tries suc

But Ted Kent in the table, gerou to 38 for 4 in reply - source Ealham taking three yesterday the space of 12 balls on being conceding a run - their "when aiming to look a use- manded. Gloucester square was the ban of unfavourable

Instead, not well received emerged, abbreviated first that Kent may not go to the by buy B. either, not that this is for its audience in four-day application, the strip pre- vette this one was certain. Comm. the straw colour source added for Champion- nothing. While some balls papered it, others kept low

Some of Kent's shot selection could be queried, but the success of their bowlers in an over- running last session will have made them feel much better.

## Durham's record ninth-wicket stand

### Round-up

Richard Pearson's third victim. Ligertwood underlined his determination to become Durham's regular wicketkeeper by making a career-best 56 against his former county.

Chris Cairns produced an innings of 80 not out to ensure Nottinghamshire did not squander the good work of their openers against Gloucester- shire at Trent Bridge.

The New Zealand all-rounders hit eight fours and three sixes in his 104-minute innings to steer the home side to 322 for 5 by the close.

With three players on Test duty, Surrey were happy to fight their way back after Sherwin Campbell and Stewart Hutton shared Durham's first century opening stand of the season.

Left-hander Hutton, deputising for injured skipper Mike Roseberry, made 47 while Campbell looked in prime form as he hit 15 fours in reaching 69 off 115 balls. But when he skied an attempted hook off Martin Bicknell's long leg the rot set in, with Joey Benjamin at one stage taking 4 for 3 in 16 balls.

Brown came in after three wickets had fallen on 244 but cracked 11 boundaries in his 60 before becoming off spinner

Wells having pulled Gough for six. Maddy was more discreet but after 12 overs David Byas had his second-line seamers operating and it was Chris Silverwood who made the breakthrough, Maddy driving at a ball just that might have swung away.

At the same score, in Craig White's first over, Wells produced to short mid-on, Richard Stump, to offer a catch so simple that he dropped it. Ben Smith took three handsome boundaries off White before he, too, edged Silverwood. Phil Simmons cut his third ball just over slips and, at 18, edged Gough fast and low, Byas doing well, diving, to get a catch.

Simmons then offered a sharp chance to midwicket, off Silverwood, at 33 and after the pair had raised 100 in 24 overs was missed again, at third man, off White, when 48. Wells went to his first century of the summer off 174 balls, and four runs later that same midwicket, Anthony McGrath, this time held Hutton, off Hardye.

Whitaker thus walked in at a comfortable 229 for 3 off and made hay, 50 off 73 balls, the second hundred-stand of the innings coming in 17 overs. At 168, Wells passed his career best and was back in the dressing-room, a victim of Gough with the new ball, when he learned he had scored 200, a six having been signalled four. Whitaker completed a chanceless century in poor light.

The memories are still vivid of the NatWest match they staged two years ago at Aston Rowant, a village ground at the foot of the Chilterns. It is true that some may recall two fast bowlers named Van Troost and Caddick, who looked very quick against Minor County tail-end batsmen. But most of all they remember Dickie Bird.

The umpires next Tuesday will be comparatively minor stars in the uniprofessional game, Messrs Clarkson and Spencer. The weather, too, may be much different from 1994. And the Lancashire team who will occupy the "away" dressing room include none other than England's captain. So everything is upbeat. But one cannot help wondering whether a trouble-free day for the groundsman Peter Lambourne – another excellent report – might not just be a bit of an anticlimax compared with the game that provided one of life's really big moments.

At nine o'clock he gave up his

ground to the umpires. Bird, accompanied by colleague George Sharp, told him that they were "now in sole charge". But that was not the end of it. Instead it was the starting point of a two-day battle with misty rain.

Admirably, the village club was able to "sweep" the dewy outfield grass with a rope attached to a tractor, just as they do on county grounds. Additionally, Lambourne used a 100-metre hose that stretched from one corner of the ground to the other. But the intermittent misty rain, and umpire Bird, almost did for the groundsman.

The number of times the covers went on and off appears to have entered into the folklore of the club. Lambourne remembers it as about 10. He got the feeling that senior and junior umpire were lying with each other. What does he think should have happened? "They could just have played on."

Lambourne may have failed to come to terms with the world's most rain-affected umpire, but at least he feels free to say so. Sixty-seven and retired, he is not answerable to a county club secretary or the

Test and County Cricket Board. Nor is the club chairman, Arthur Judders-Fisher, a retired barrister who, on an ordinary Sunday at Aston Rowant, is to be found serving at that other type of bar, in shorts and shirt of Caribbean hues. Nor is Andrew Bailey, the chairman of a publishing house.

Management ability, and good contacts, has meant the publisher taking overall charge of hospitality and catering, while the barrister is in charge of "finance logistics" – Has everyone got enough change? Are we running sort of disposable beer glasses? Is there 1,000 pint glasses enough, and 1,000 half-pints?

Such men may not be beholden to anyone but they are, of course, very keen to do Aston Rowant proud. They want to put their little ground on the map (it is, they believe, only the second village ground to stage a NatWest match) and to justify the trust put in them of only

stalwart tea lady will roll her sleeves a little higher; professional catering will be employed. Then there is the NatWest pavilion, housing 200 guests. The club's own hospitality pavilion hosts another 200. And on the "public" side of the ground, a beer and refreshment tent. This is where the club hopes for profit, along with the parking in a field over the road at £2 a car.

Pile's wife, Jill, is in charge of the food for the refreshment tent. Seven teams of sandwich makers will gather, four to a house, to make 1,200 sandwiches from 120 loaves. The bread comes from Waitrose in Thame and will be acknowledged with an advertising banner, one of some 20 around the ground, as the club looks to swell its list of local sponsors.

Around 100 club members will have a job, and one of the jobs is stopping other club members from treating the pavilion as their own. "The need for better crowd control what we learned most from our previous match," Pile says.

Players and officials will be fed in the County Pavilion. Don't imagine that the club's

for members to accept that." The hope is for 2,000 spectators, compared with the 600 odd who braved the poor weather two years ago. And, along with the right weather, a game that lasts until after tea. There is a belief in a convention that the first-class county will bat first – especially at a minor venue.

That belief has been shaped by Somerset's willingness to bat first on a difficult pitch two years ago, but the arrangement is by no means predictable. In that same first round in 1994, minor counties found themselves batting first (and at Northop Hall, the Welsh Minor Counties' 104 was famously overhauled by Middlesex in only 16.2 overs).

"We want Lancashire to bat first," Pile says, "make a big score... and lose." He laughs. In fact, it is quite doubtful whether they do want that result. They are uneasily aware that the TCCB fixture list shows a second-round NatWest match at "Aston Rowant or Old Trafford". The date is 10 July. It is, as Pile points out, a key week in the sporting summer. Further, he has some real work to do. And Aston Rowant are on tour.

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Lambourne may have failed to come to terms with the world's most rain-affected umpire, but at least he feels free to say so. Sixty-seven and retired, he is not answerable to a county club secretary or the

Test and County Cricket Board. Nor is the club chairman, Arthur Judders-Fisher, a retired barrister who, on an ordinary Sunday at Aston Rowant, is to be found serving at that other type of bar, in shorts and shirt of Caribbean hues. Nor is Andrew Bailey, the chairman of a publishing house.

Management ability, and good contacts, has meant the publisher taking overall charge of hospitality and catering, while the barrister is in charge of "finance logistics" – Has everyone got enough change? Are we running sort of disposable beer glasses? Is there 1,000 pint glasses enough, and 1,000 half-pints?

Such men may not be beholden to anyone but they are, of course, very keen to do Aston Rowant proud. They want to put their little ground on the map (it is, they believe, only the second village ground to stage a NatWest match) and to justify the trust put in them of only

stalwart tea lady will roll her sleeves a little higher; professional catering will be employed. Then there is the NatWest pavilion, housing 200 guests. The club's own hospitality pavilion hosts another 200. And on the "public" side of the ground, a beer and refreshment tent. This is where the club hopes for profit, along with the parking in a field over the road at £2 a car.

Pile's wife, Jill, is in charge of the food for the refreshment tent. Seven teams of sandwich makers will gather, four to a house, to make 1,200 sandwiches from 120 loaves. The bread comes from Waitrose in Thame and will be acknowledged with an advertising banner, one of some 20 around the ground, as the club looks to swell its list of local sponsors.

Around 100 club members will have a job, and one of the jobs is stopping other club members from treating the pavilion as their own. "The need for better crowd control what we learned most from our previous match," Pile says.

Players and officials will be fed in the County Pavilion. Don't imagine that the club's

for members to accept that." The hope is for 2,000 spectators, compared with the 600 odd who braved the poor weather two years ago. And, along with the right weather, a game that lasts until after tea. There is a belief in a convention that the first-class county will bat first – especially at a minor venue.

That belief has been shaped by Somerset's willingness to bat first on a difficult pitch two years ago, but the arrangement is by no means predictable. In that same first round in 1994, minor counties found themselves batting first (and at Northop Hall, the Welsh Minor Counties' 104 was famously overhauled by Middlesex in only 16.2 overs).

"We want Lancashire to bat first," Pile says, "make a big score... and lose." He laughs. In fact, it is quite doubtful whether they do want that result. They are uneasily aware that the TCCB fixture list shows a second-round NatWest match at "Aston Rowant or Old Trafford". The date is 10 July. It is, as Pile points out, a key week in the sporting summer. Further, he has some real work to do. And Aston Rowant are on tour.

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**SECOND TEST:** Thorpe and Russell regain initiative after Srinath's spirited performance threatens to end summer resurgence

# England launch counter-offensive

**DEREK PRINGLE**  
reports from Lord's  
England 238-5 v India

It was tales of the unexpected at Lord's yesterday after Dickie Bird, umpiring in his last Test, gave the England captain our bow for a duck to the fifth ball of the day, after Mohammad Azharuddin had bravely asked England to bat.

At tea, when the home side were 144 for 5, that decision began to look inspired, with India all but stopping England's summer resurgence dead in its tracks with a spirited bowling performance, led by Javagal Srinath. That was the moment, however, when England decided to retort, a counter brilliantly marshalled by Graham Thorpe and Jack Russell and, by the time bad light had brought an early close, their unbroken stand of 131 had regained the initiative for England.

Thorpe, in particular, played his pugnacious strokes with relish, barely eliciting a mistake until Sachin Tendulkar hit him full on the helmet with a bouncer. He is now an organised player who reads conditions and the scoring options they afford quicker than most, and he reached his fifty off 100 balls.

Russell is similarly cast, though he is the only batsman who makes a hook shot look like a deep-sea fisherman landing

martin and, by the time India had exhausted their ploy of bouncing him out, he had not refined it one jot, reaching his fifty in 12 fewer balls than his partner.

However, both batsmen clearly benefited from batting against a soft ball, and their dominance against a tiring attack late in the day made the Indian captain's decision to field - after an early shower delayed the start by half an hour - look an increasingly brash one.

Had Atherton won it, he would have batted and Azharuddin's decision was probably more to do with not wanting to bat under grey skies rather than any real desire to bowl.

Mind you, the day could have fallen differently for India had the admirable Srinath consistently pitched the ball a yard or so fuller. When he did, England's batsmen had few answers and, before he tired, he beat the batsmen far more often than they defied him.

Atherton, with barely his mark etched on the crease, was the first to succumb. Beaten by the fifth ball, which nipped back sharply down the slope, the England captain could scarcely believe it when Dickie Bird, the world's greatest not-outer, decided in favour of the bowler.

By the umpire's strict frames of reference, it was not a plumb one but, with Atherton barely in front of the popping crease, the ball would probably have hit

Lord's scoreboard

(India won toss)	
ENGLAND - First innings.....	0
12 min, 51 balls.....	20
A J Thorpe (not out).....	20
12 min, 61 balls, 3 runs.....	36
N Hussain c Rathore b Ganguly.....	85
G P Thorpe not out.....	85
12 min, 65 balls, 9 runs.....	1
G A Thorpe c Ganguly b Ganguly.....	1
19 min, 9 balls.....	1
R C Martin b Plassard.....	1
R C Martin b Plassard.....	1
HC Morris not out.....	69
120 min, 118 balls, 7 runs.....	69
Extras (bowls, hits, 2nd wkt).....	26
Total (for 5, 354 mins, 80 overs).....	238
Rate 4.0, 2nd wkt 36.5, 3rd wkt 3.98	
Outcomes: A 102, D 102, G 5-107 (Brand)	
To bat: C Lewis, D Cook, P J Martin, A D Muttley.	

Count on for 29.

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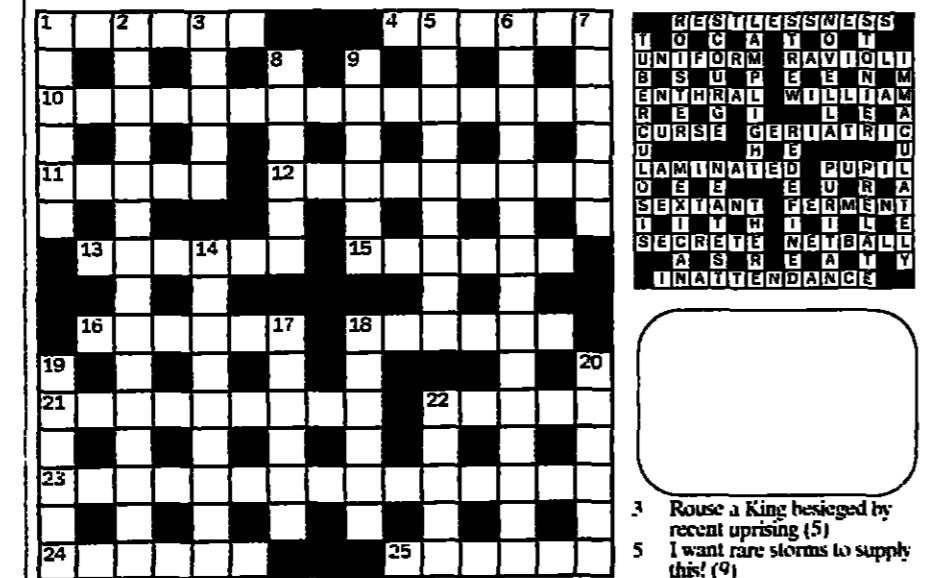
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No. 2019, Friday 21 June

By Phil

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All eyes are on Dickie Bird as the umpire, in his last Test, bids farewell to Lord's yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

## India's bowlers flunk geometry test

### HENRY BLOFIELD

Mohammad Azharuddin, India's captain, was let down by his opening bowlers when he had quite justifiably asked England to bat first after light rain had fallen on a cloudy morning. They both bowled wide of the off stump, allowing the batsmen to leave far too many balls alone on a pitch which was ideal for them both - and they bowled short when they should have been trying to bring the batsman on to the front foot.

Of all the Test grounds,

Lord's is perhaps the trickiest for bowlers to find the right line to bowl. The natural slope of the ground (there is a nine foot drop from the Grandstand side down to the Tavern) distorts normal calculations made for level surfaces.

It is not the simple matter, therefore, of pitching the ball on or just outside the off stump. If the bowler operating from the Nursery End does that the slope takes the ball much further away from the right-hander, who does not then have to play a stroke.

The bowler at the Nursery

End must start the ball on the line of the middle or middle and leg stumps to ensure that the batsman plays a stroke. If he swings the ball away from the right-hander he will need to aim even further to leg to compensate for the slope.

Conversely, the bowler at the Pavilion End - where the slope will take the ball down the leg side - must aim further outside the off stump than he would normally want to do.

The ball pitching on the middle stump or the middle and off will be taken down the leg side by this slope.

It is a straightforward geometrical problem but one which many bowlers do not appear to understand. Venkatesh Prasad, playing in his first Test series and bowling from the Nursery End, can be forgiven for not knowing the form, but one of the senior players should have put him right.

On the other hand, Javagal Srinath seemed well aware of the problem and over-compensated and bowled too wide of the off stump. In fact,

he made his job the more difficult by bowling round the wicket at the two left-hand-

ders, Graham 1 and Jack Russell, and angled the ball sideways - and even the slope could not compensate for that.

It may seem unusual of a bowler who in specialist sports such as Sri Lanka had been at the top of his game to have lost four wickets in 90 minutes before lunch.

As it was, so many dreadful strokes in the afternoon left India better placed than they had any right to be after the wasteful early bowling.

## Sacchi determined to resist pressure to resign

### Football

Arrigo Sacchi flew back to face the anger of a humiliated nation yesterday determined to stay on as Italy's coach. Sacchi, who signed a new two-year contract with the Italian football federation in March, said at his final news conference in Manchester before his beaten European

Championship squad left for home: "I have no intention of resigning. If my new contract had been conditioned by the results of Euro 96 I would not have signed it. I would like to continue as the Italian coach. If they don't want me, I will be on the market. I have refused a lot of

money to stay with Italy and this should be enough to prove my dedication."

Antonio Matarrese, the president of the federation, said:

"We were slightly presumptuous against the Czechs but that was the only big mistake that I felt Sacchi made. Of course we are disappointed to have been eliminated, but we went out with dignity and standing on our feet. We must remember that Sacchi has changed the face of Italian football. It is now refreshing and exciting, and it must be recognised that he took us to the 1994 World Cup final."

Italy lost only one of their three Group C fixtures - 2-1 to the Czech Republic a week ago - but that caused their downfall, with the Czechs advancing to the quarter-finals at the Italians' expense. "In our group were teams rated first, second and 10th in the world by Fifa and I think we played better than all of them," Sacchi insisted. Sadly for him, that was not enough.

Euro 96, page 28

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